

Saudi crown prince arrives in Lahore

LAHORE, Pakistan (R) — Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz arrived in the Punjab province capital of Lahore Tuesday on the third day of his visit to Pakistan, government officials said. He was accompanied by Pakistani President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq and was welcomed by the provincial governor. He is due in Karachi Wednesday and will leave for Riyadh in the afternoon after visiting Karachi port. During his stay in Pakistan's capital, Islamabad, Prince Abdullah held talks with General Zia and visited an Afghan refugee camp near Peshawar where he assured exiles of continued Saudi support for their fight to oust Soviet troops from Afghanistan. The prince also visited the capital's Faisal Mosque, named for the late Saudi king who offered to provide funds for it.

Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز: صحيفة سياسية عربية مستقلة، تُنشر من قبل مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية "الراي"

'Israel supplies arms to Nicaraguans'

WASHINGTON (R) — Israel is supplying weapons to rebels fighting the Sandinist government of Nicaragua, according to American NBC-Television news. In a report from a "Contra" rebel base in Honduras, NBC showed an aged C-47 transport plane landing at an airstrip 180 kilometres from Managua bringing supplies for the 11,000 U.S.-backed guerrillas fighting to topple the leftist Nicaraguan government. "We received some weapons from Israel," Contra leader Enrique Bermudez told NBC. NBC said Israel was supplying 25 per cent of the rebels' arms under an agreement reached during a 1982 visit to Honduras by then Israeli Defence Minister Ariel Sharon. NBC said the 47-year-old plane that served as the rebels' lifeline was supplied by the United States.

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U.S. regional naval chief arrives

AMMAN (J.T.) — Rear Admiral Charles Addams, commander of the U.S. naval forces in the Middle East, arrived here Tuesday for an one-day visit, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said. Adm. Addams was received by Chief of Staff, Lieutenant-General Fahd Abu Talab Tuesday afternoon. The American charge d'affaires and military attaché in Amman were present during the chief of staff's meeting with Adm. Addams.

2 Israelis wounded outside Kalkilya

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Two Israelis were wounded Monday when a bomb exploded by the side of a road outside Kalkilya on the occupied West Bank, military sources said. The bomb was activated as their car drove along a main road leading from the Palestinian town. The army was searching the area for the perpetrators, the sources said.

Bomb explodes near Gaza mosque

TEL AVIV (AP) — A small bomb exploded outside a mosque in the occupied Gaza Strip and another was safely defused by an Israeli bomb squad, military sources said Tuesday. The bombs were found Monday in the village of Abassan. The explosion left scratches on one of the mosque's pillars but caused no casualties. The other device, much larger than the first, was safely defused, the sources said. It was the second attack on a mosque in Gaza in the past three days. On Sunday, vandals broke into the Sayyed Hashem Mosque in Gaza City and destroyed the tombstone on the grave of a Muslim patriarch.

Israeli peace activists due in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — A delegation from the Israeli "Peace Now" group was expected to arrive Tuesday at the invitation of the Egyptian government, a Foreign Ministry source said. The source, who declined to be identified, said the delegation would give lectures at the Egyptian Diplomatic Club. He also said the delegation members were expected to meet Foreign Minister, Kamal Hassan Ali, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali and Osama Al Baz, director of President Hosni Mubarak's political office.

Castro to pay official visit to Spain

MADRID (R) — Cuban President Fidel Castro will pay an official visit to Spain on a date still to be agreed, Foreign Minister Fernando Morán told the Senate Tuesday. Mr. Morán was replying to an opposition parliamentary question on last February's brief visit by the Cuban leader, his first to a Western European country, on his way back home from the funeral of Soviet leader Yuri Andropov. Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez's decision to allow the "technical support" and invite Mr. Castro for lunch at his official residence was bitterly criticised by the right-wing opposition.

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Beirut buffer force caught in crossfire

BEIRUT (AP) — Truce observers came under sniper fire at Beirut's mid-city demarcation line for the second straight day Tuesday as a four-party security committee met again to complete the disengagement of Lebanon's warring factions.

Police said observers posted in the area near the disputed "Primo" building on the "green line" between mainly Christian east and mostly Muslim west Beirut were under sporadic sniping since midmorning.

Three people — including one Lebanese policeman serving with the disengagement force and two civilians — were killed in clashes provoked by sniping in the same area Monday, police said. There had no immediate casualty reports Tuesday.

Disputes over buffer zones around Primo and the "Ring Road," a now-closed elevated highway between the city's two sectors, have been holding up completion of a plan to disengage warring militias in the capital.

The security committee, which represents the Lebanese army as well as militias, met for a third straight day in a building near the green line Tuesday to try to resolve the dispute, police said. The disengagement process, which began last Thursday, has been completed along the rest of the five-kilometre green line, the southern suburbs and around the mountain town of Souq Al Gharb east of the capital.

The midmorning sniping Tuesday touched off localised exchanges of rocket-propelled grenades and anti-aircraft fire across the Ring Road area and two mortar shells crashed into the Jdeideh residential neighbourhood in Beirut's eastern sector in early afternoon.

Associated Press correspondent Eileen Alt Powell reported from the Dora neighbourhood near Jdeideh that the two explosions sent people scurrying for cover. Shopkeepers lowered their shutters and streets were quickly deserted.

Anti-aircraft fire echoed through Beirut's western sector at almost the same time the eastern sector was hit by mortars. Reuters added: Despite the shooting, politicians were still trying

to work out a formula for a government of national unity expected to include representatives of the combatants.

Pierre Gemayel, father of President Amin Gemayel and leader of the Falangist Party, told Reuters in an interview that he had agreed to join a government of national unity and did not rule out joining under Rashid Karami, a veteran Sunni Muslim politician who is Syria's candidate for prime minister.

Another important Christian figure, former President Camille Chamoun, has expressed stronger reservations about Mr. Karami. But sources close to him said his position was not final.

Mr. Karami, who comes from the northern city of Tripoli, returned Tuesday from talks in Damascus, official sources said.

Mr. Karami's allies, Progressive

Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt and Shiite leader Nabih Berri, were also in Damascus and all three saw Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

Muslim opposition sources said Mr. Karami would only accept the premiership if all parties agreed to help him implement political reforms proposed at a conference of factional leaders in Switzerland last month.

The conference ended when ex-President Suleiman Franjeh rejected proposals to transfer some of the powers of the Christian president to the Muslim prime minister.

Mr. Franjeh told reporters Tuesday he would not agree to take part in a new cabinet until he knew what reforms it planned to carry out.

Mr. Berri and Mr. Junblatt would prefer to have representatives in the cabinet rather than serving themselves, the opposition sources said.

They said Mr. Karami and the Syrians both favoured a large 26-man cabinet including Mr. Berri, Mr. Junblatt, Mr. Chamoun and Pierre Gemayel. If this proved impossible, Mr. Karami would head a 22-member team.



A Lebanese girl Tuesday holds her infant brother in front of what was once their home in the southern suburbs of Beirut (AP wirephoto)

Falangists to join Lebanese cabinet

BEIRUT (R) — A top right-wing politician, Pierre Gemayel, said Tuesday the mainly Christian rightist "Lebanese Forces" militia would not block the formation of a government of national unity.

Mr. Gemayel, father of President Amin Gemayel, told Reuters in an interview that the powerful Falangist Party which he heads would insist that the Falangist-dominated "Lebanese Forces" join a new cabinet.

Intensive discussions are taking place in Beirut and Damascus to replace the cabinet of Premier Shafiq Al Wazzan.

Nadum Farah, official spokesman for the militia, had said in a television interview on Saturday that the militia would not join the cabinet, since it would be an instrument in the hands of Syria.

The "Lebanese Forces" objected to Syria directly handling the formation of a new government, Mr. Farah added. Mr. Gemayel, 78, was speaking over the sound of gunfire at his party headquarters in a devastated downtown area about 200 metres from Beirut's so-called green line separating rival Lebanese militias.

Mr. Farah's rejection was an obstacle in the formation of the government, Rashid Karami, a Sunni Muslim opposition politician who is tipped to be the next premier, has made it clear he would form a government only if all parties joined.

Mr. Gemayel, founder of the Falangist Party, said Mr. Farah was wrong to speak in the name of the "Lebanese Forces" and he did not represent their position on the issue.

Though Mr. Farah's title is official spokesman, Mr. Gemayel declared: "It is the Lebanese Front which speaks in the name of the Lebanese Forces."

The front comprises right-wing Christian political leaders. Former Lebanese President Camille Chamoun heads the group and Mr. Gemayel is the vice president.

Mr. Chamoun has said he opposed the appointment of Mr. Karami as premier, but he was not making an official statement on behalf of the front.

His spokesman told Reuters Monday that Mr. Chamoun's opposition was not absolute and he was not opposed to all candidates, even though Damascus was directly involved in the discussions to form a new government.

Mr. Farah, a member of the Falangist political bureau which Mr. Gemayel heads, Tuesday declined comment on Mr. Gemayel's statement.

"The Lebanese Forces have to be represented. Everybody has to be represented," Mr. Gemayel said.

The Falangist chief also said he had told his son he would join the cabinet if necessary.

"I prefer not to participate in the government," the former minister said, but added: "When the president of the republic asked me, he told me the situation was dramatic and it was necessary that I be there. So I accepted provisionally."

"My only condition is that everybody work for Lebanon to be free and independent," he said, adding that he believed that Muslim opposition politicians did want such a country.

(Continued on page 3)

Hussein arrives in Riyadh

RIYADH (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein arrived here at noon Tuesday on a two-day official visit to Saudi Arabia during which he will hold talks with King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz on current Arab affairs and co-ordination and co-operation between Jordan and Saudi Arabia, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

Upon arrival in Riyadh, King Hussein was accorded an official welcome ceremony in which King Fahd and members of the Saudi royal family and senior Saudi officials took part.

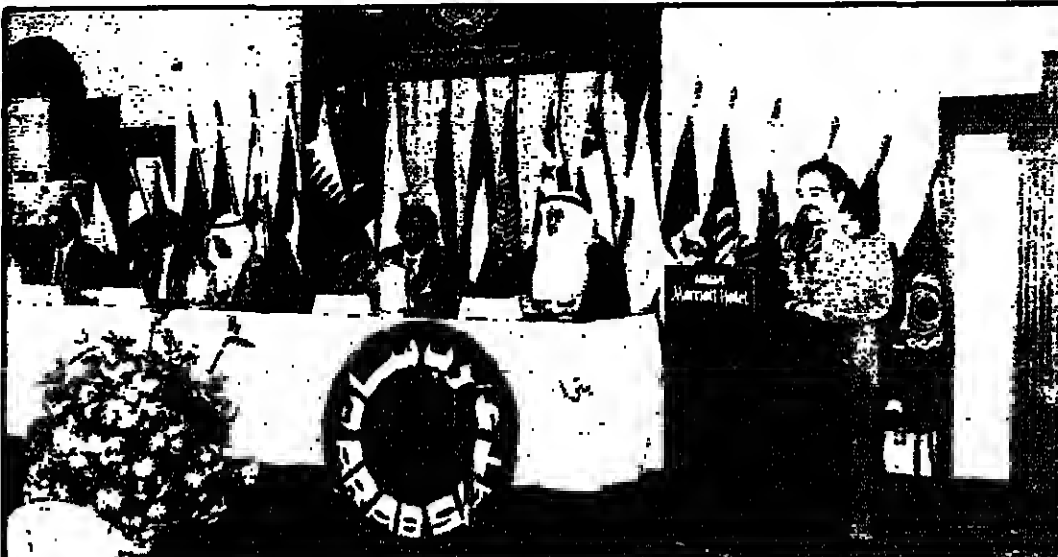
Before going to Riyadh, King Hussein paid a visit to Medina where he prayed at the Prophet Mohammed Mosque and visited the Prophet's tomb and recited verses of the Holy Koran.

King Hussein was due to hold talks with King Fahd later Tuesday, Petra said.

King Hussein is accompanied by his son, His Highness Prince Abdullah, Prime Minister Ahmad Obaidat, Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker.

The King was seen off at Amman airport by His Highness Prince Mohammad, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, Lower House Speaker Akel Al Fayez, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odch, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Suleiman Arar, senior government and Saudi embassy officials.

Before the King's departure, Prince Hassan was sworn as Regent.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday addresses the opening session of Arab communications ministers' meeting on the Arab Satellite Communications Organisation (Arabsat)

Arab ministers open conference on satellite project

Hassan calls for plans to absorb new communications technology

By Elia Nasrallah and Anne Counsell
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday urged Arab communications ministers to line up the manpower and expertise needed to harness modern technological developments in communications.

Addressing the seventh general meeting of the Arab Satellite Communications Organisation (Arabsat) conference at the Marriott Hotel, Prince Hassan spoke of the rapid pace of development

in science, industry, radio and satellite communications and the challenges they pose for Arab countries.

Prince Hassan, who deputised for His Majesty King Hussein in the opening of the conference, said Arab governments should use the technology to serve the needs of the Arab people.

Following are highlights of Prince Hassan's address to the delegates:

Everyday brings with it new developments and technological achievements unprecedented in

the history of mankind. A short while ago we watched man floating in space hovering over a space station, to catch and repair a crippled satellite and relaunch it into space. This is one achievement in space science and you are required to follow a rather steep learning curve.

Skilled technicians and specialists who can help the Arab Nation catch up with modern technology and harness it for the benefit of the Arab people.

You are in a position where you

(Continued on page 3)

Masri begins Europe tour

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri has embarked on a tour of five European countries to explain the Arab stand vis-a-vis the Gulf war. He is joining the North Yemeni foreign minister in London where they will proceed on their mission the other capitals.

The tour is in implementation of resolutions passed by the Arab Foreign Ministers Council which met in Baghdad recently to review the situation in the Gulf war.

A Jordanian delegation will travel to London soon to join the ministers on their tour, according to Al Dustour newspaper.

Egypt accuses Israel of reneging on treaty

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian minister has accused Israel of reneging on its commitments to the U.S.-sponsored Camp David accords.

In an interview with the semi-official newspaper Al Ahrar, Boutros Ghali, the minister of state for foreign affairs, described his country's treaty with Israel as "frozen."

"Peace with Israel is frozen... Israel's responsibility for this is clear," Mr. Ghali was quoted as saying.

"The Israeli government has reneged on its commitments to the Camp David accords by denying the Palestinians their right to self-determination, annexing the Golan Heights and invading Lebanon," he added.

Relations between Israel and Egypt, frosty since Cairo recalled its ambassador from Tel Aviv in

protest over the invasion of Lebanon, have plunged to a new low following Egypt's decision last week to sever relations with Costa Rica and El Salvador for moving their embassies to Jerusalem.

Israel has strongly protested in Cairo over the decision. In the Al Ahrar interview, Mr. Ghali was quoted as saying Egypt would not return its ambassador to Tel Aviv "unless Israel withdrew from Lebanon, ceased its settlement policies on the occupied West Bank and helped push forward the peace process."

Answering a question on whether Cairo would restore its full diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, Mr. Ghali said: "This is a strategic aim... there could be no non-alignment unless there are balanced relations with the two superpowers."

Israel concerned over Syrian remarks, Shamir says

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Tuesday that Israel was concerned by Syrian statements that the Middle East was on the verge of exploding, but he played down the risk of renewed conflict.

In an interview with Reuters, Mr. Shamir said there was "a large chance that nothing will happen in the near future."

The prime minister said his government had no explanation for a series of Syrian statements warning that war was near. On Monday, Syrian Defence Minister Mustafa Tlas said Israel and the U.S. were preparing to attack his country.

Mr. Shamir categorically denied this. "From our side, we do not

have any intention of any military operations," he said.

Israeli and Syrian armour face each other across a narrow no man's land in east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, which was the scene of major tank and air battles between the two countries during the 1982 Lebanon war.

Reports from Beirut and Damascus this month have spoken of increased tension along the front line and a military build-up.

Israel has denied it is building up its forces there. "I am not concerned by the situation on the ground because I know the situation," Mr. Shamir said Tuesday.

In a speech at a Syrian navy base broadcast by Damascus Radio, Lieutenant-General Tlas said

Tuesday Syria could repel the expected Israeli attack with help from other Arab states and the Soviet Union.

Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens has denied Israel had any intention of attacking Syria. He said there was no truth in reports that Israel was reinforcing its forces on the front facing Syrian troops in the Bekaa Valley.

Gen. Tlas said: "The area faces a difficult political trial and a major military choice. It is on the very verge of a new explosion because of the aggression which the forces of imperialism and Zionism are preparing against Syria."

"Syria, with the means it possesses and with the support of the Arab Nation and the Soviet

Union, is well able to deter the aggression. It will not reveal its capabilities until the right moment."

On Monday, Israeli Science Minister Yuval Ne'eman suggested that if there was renewed conflict, Egypt might fight on the Syrian side. Mr. Shamir dismissed this as speculation.

Mr. Shamir told Reuters recent statements from Cairo that the Egyptian-Israeli "peace process" was frozen did not improve the situation.

Israel still hoped to develop full relations with Egypt that would give the "peace treaty its full significance," he said.

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Mideast war unlikely despite tension, U.S. analysts say

WASHINGTON (R) — War between Israel and Syria looks unlikely now, despite reports of increasing tension along an Israeli-Syrian front in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, according to U.S. analysts.

Although a prominent Washington columnist wrote at the weekend that the U.S. capital was having nightmares that war might be imminent, the analysts told Reuters that powerful reasons argued for restraint on both sides.

"Neither Syria nor Israel has any great interest in tangling with the other. Either would have to be quite irresponsible to take such a step," said Robert Neumann, a Mideast analyst with the privately funded Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS).

Mr. Neumann, a former U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan, Morocco and Saudi Arabia who returned four weeks ago from a trip to Syria and Israel, said Monday

night he had discerned no motivation for either country "to produce such a horrendous conflict".

"I think a new war is possible but not particularly likely," said William O'Brien of Georgetown University.

Mr. O'Brien, a specialist in the Arab-Israeli conflict, said Israel was still torn by arguments over its 1982 invasion of Lebanon and pre-occupied by an approaching general election. He said there was a geopolitical view that internal problems could produce a pre-emptive attack, but added: "You can't get away with that in a democratic country."

Another CSIS analyst, Sharon Hunter, said Syria had its own

problems with worries over the health of President Hafez Al Assad and internal rivalries between his potential heirs.

The analysts said they believed Syria had been sobered by events in 1982 when the Israeli Air Force downed 82 planes for the loss of none in fighting over Lebanon.

Washington Post Columnist Richard Cohen wrote at the weekend that within a year or so Syria will have assimilated large amounts of new Soviet arms and be ready for a new round.

"People are talking about the next Mideast war — a nightmare made all the more likely by the last Mideast war," he said.

But the analysts said they did not believe the performance of Syrian forces had increased significantly and said Israel could be expected to win another war.

"The Syrians alone in direct confrontation with the Israelis

would be outclassed. The Soviet Union would not want them to provoke anything," said William Lewis, professor of international affairs at George Washington University.

The analysts said, however, that the close proximity of Israeli and Syrian forces in Lebanon had increased the chances of war by accident.

Mr. Neumann said that if there were an Israeli-Syrian war there appeared to be a real prospect of Soviet intervention.

He said he had met high-level party and government officials in Moscow at the end of last year "and they made it very clear that an attack on Syria by anyone would mean an escalation and that they (the Soviets) would escalate too."

He added they did not say what kind of escalation they had in mind, "and I did not enquire".

Arab housing ministers hold talks in Tunis

TUNIS (Petra) — The executive council of Arab housing ministers were expected to open meetings in Tunis Tuesday evening to discuss topics connected with rural regions, environmental pollution and housing projects in Arab countries.

The council is also expected to discuss ways of co-operation with the U.N. Centre for Human Settlements.

Jordan is represented at the meetings by a delegation led by Mr. Hamdullah Al Nabulsi, Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment.

Seoul grants \$100,000 to Palestinian students

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government of South Korea through the Korean ambassador to Kuwait, granted \$100,000 to Mr. Joseph Y. Al-Qutub, President of the Arab Student Aid International in Kuwait, according to a press release issued by the Korean embassy here.

The Korean government stated granting contributions to Palestinian students in 1981 and with this year's payment the total Korean contribution will reach \$1m.

The total number of Palestinian students who benefited from these grants, during the last 3 years, was 469 — 189 students in 1981, 215 students in 1982 and 65 students in 1983.

Gulf states warned not to rely on U.S.

KUWAIT (AP) — South Yemeni President Ali Nasser Mohammad was quoted Tuesday as warning the Gulf states against relying on the U.S. for their defence, urging them to liquidate all aspects of "American military presence" in the region.

"Placing the chips on America has proved a failure," he told the newspaper Al Seyassah in an interview.

The South Yemeni President justified his relations with the Soviet Union and his country's pact with Ethiopia and Libya, insisting that his government never contravened Arab League charter or pan-Arab summit conference resolutions.

The Soviet Union maintains a sizeable military presence in South Yemen, at the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula.

Pro-Western Arab countries have assailed the Soviet military

presence in the tiny country which overlooks the Red Sea Strait of Bab Al Mandeb. The Gulf states have been trying to wean Aden away from the Soviets.

Mr. Mohammad told Al Seyassah that he received no direct financial aid from any of his neighbours except Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

Mr. Mohammad denied that his country was backing Iraq against Iran in the 43-month-old war in the northern sector of the Gulf. He called for an end to the war which has only served to bring "airborne and seaborne American troops to the region."

"We re-affirm the necessity of solving the (Gulf) conflict by peaceful means, of liquidating all forms of (foreign) mobile and static military presence in the region," Mr. Mohammad said in the interview.

The South Yemeni president

Ali Nasser Mohammad

rejected the idea that the friendship treaty which binds his country to the Soviet Union or the Soviet presence in his country represented any threat to the security of the Gulf region.

"The facts have proved that the Soviet Union is a staunch friend of the Arab Nation... and has committed no aggression against any Arab country or adopted any hostile stand against the Arab cause," he said.

Qatar seeks Japanese role to end Gulf war

TOKYO (R) — Qatar has urged Japan to play a positive role in ending the Iran-Iraq war, Qatar's Information Minister Issa Ghanim Al Kawi said Tuesday.

"A closure (of the Straits of Hormuz) would put oil prices suddenly, which is not in the interest of the United States, Europe, or Japan, so you should mediate to make sure this does not happen," Mr. Kawi told a press conference.

He noted that Japan relied heavily on oil imports which passed through the straits. Iran has threatened to blockade the straits if Iraq tries to cripple its oil export facilities.

Mr. Kawi said that the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Hamad Al Thani, asked during talks with Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone Monday for Japanese efforts to bring about a quick and peaceful settlement to the war.

Qatar, a small nation heavily dependent on oil exports, is current chairman of the Gulf Co-operation Conference (GCC) organised in 1981 to promote co-operation among the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Saudi Arabia.

Japan, which has diplomatic relations with both Iran and Iraq,

has said it wanted to help "create an environment" for a peaceful settlement, but has declined a formal role as mediator.

Qatar is also seeking the participation of Japanese firms in a project to develop natural gas fields off northern Qatar. Mr. Kawi said.

He said Qatar had recently initiated an agreement with British Petroleum Co. Ltd. (BP) and France's Compagnie Francaise des Petroles (CFP), which would each take a 7.5 per cent share in the project. "We are inviting the Japanese to take a similar share," he said.

Iraqi deputy premier heads delegation to Soviet Union

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan left here Tuesday for Moscow leading a delegation on an official visit to the Soviet Union.

The official Iraqi News Agency INA quoted Mr. Ramadan as saying the visit was aimed at improving and expanding bilateral relations, particularly in the economic field.

Iraq's Gulf war with Iran and international attitudes to the con-

flict would also be high on the agenda, as well as other Middle East issues, he said.

The Soviet Union and Iraq signed a friendship and co-operation treaty 12 years ago. But relations between the two countries had been under strain until a visit to Moscow last November by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz.

This followed a sharp deterioration in ties between Moscow and Tehran after Iran last year arrested Iranian Communists.

U.K. turns down proposed Mideast peace conference

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Britain said Monday it did not at present favour a Middle East peace conference as proposed last December by the General Assembly.

"In our view... it is necessary to narrow the gap and establish further common ground between the parties before a conference is likely to be productive," British Ambassador Sir John Thomson said.

He was responding to a letter from Secretary General Javier

Perez de Cuellar seeking the views of prospective participants, including the Soviet Union and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Sir John said: "The British government does not favour the convening of an international conference at present. But we note the less than the highest importance to the irreplaceable role of the U.N. in promoting peace in the Middle East."

Morocco may pardon convicted rioters

RABAT (AP) — King Hassan II is expected to proclaim an amnesty some time this summer for most of the 800 Moroccans sentenced to prison terms for the bloody food riots that disrupted the North African nation in January.

Moroccan sources said the authorities hope the proposed amnesty will help create a favourable climate for legislative elections. The elections, postponed largely as a result of the riots, are now planned for October, though no formal announcement has been made.

Unofficial sources estimated that more than 100 persons were killed in a wave of rioting and looting that broke out almost simultaneously in mid-January in numerous Moroccan cities from Oujda and Nador in the north to Agadir and Marrakech in the south. The official death toll was 20, including several policemen.

King Hassan called in the army to put down the rioting. The troops carried out their orders with such a show of force that order was restored everywhere within 24 hours. The troops have long since returned to their barracks. But there have been no reports of new unrest anywhere.

The apparent cause of the riots were rumours of planned increases in food prices and edu-

cation fees. The authorities claimed at the time that no such increases were contemplated. They blamed leftists and "Islamic Fundamentalist agitators" for inciting the unrest to undermine Morocco's pro-Western government.

The king was particularly embarrassed by the rioting because it coincided with an Islamic Summit Conference in Morocco's commercial capital, Casablanca, about half the nation's 25,000-strong police force was concentrated in and around the city leaving the police in other cities weakened and unable to intervene effectively.

There has been no official count of the number of persons arrested or put on trial during the riots. Nor has the government issued a count of the rioters convicted and jailed in various parts of the country.

Officials of the "Socialist Union of Popular Forces" (USFP) Morocco's main leftist party requesting anonymity, said a majority of those convicted were members of the party, which is part of the ruling government coalition of acting Prime Minister Karim Lamrani.

The party leader, Abderrahim Bouabid, is minister of state in the Lamrani government and has expressed no intention of resigning. The USFP has denied any role in

the unrest. The sources said some of the convicted rioters were members of the (Communist) People's Socialist Party, while a "few dozen" others were Islamic Fundamentalists.

Diplomatic observers said Fundamentalist activists were seen distributing violently anti-government tracts during the height of the riots in numerous cities.

There are almost no Shiite Muslim communities in Morocco. King Hassan retains the loyalty of the great majority of Morocco's 96 per cent Islamic population.

The fundamentalists have never presented a major political problem to the Moroccan authorities.

The government accused unnamed "foreign elements" of inciting the riots to destabilise the Moroccan government, but has not explicitly identified any country as being involved. Moroccan officials said privately that the fundamentalists among the rioters were believed to have received their funds and inspiration from Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini.

The USFP officials said they expected most of the convicted party members to be amnestied well before the elections, and the trials were therefore no reason for demanding a new postponement of the vote.

Israeli backed Lebanese militia said to be weak, unpopular

By Paul Eedle
Reuter

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon — The militia Israel sponsors to police South Lebanon and make it easier for Israeli troops to withdraw from the area is too weak and unpopular to do the job, according to Western military and diplomatic sources.

They say the force, founded by the late Maj. Saad Haddad and dependent on Israel for everything including its wages, numbers no more than 1,500 men and is finding great difficulty attracting new recruits to reach its target strength of 6,000.

It was 85 per cent Falangist in an area where most people were Muslim, and was working for Israel in an area where commands had been mounting daily attacks on Israeli soldiers and had killed several collaborators, they added.

Israel invaded Lebanon in June 1982 to crush Palestinian commands. But now the Palestinians have been driven from the Israeli border and Israel wants to withdraw its men to avoid the casualties which the commando attacks are causing.

Strengthening the Haddad militia, now known as the South Lebanon Army, is part of Israel's preparations to leave. It wants to en-

sure that if its men pull out, Palestinian commands will not be able to return to South Lebanon.

But even the new commander of the militia, former Lebanese Army General Antoine Lahad, said in a newspaper interview last month: "I think we are still not strong enough to guarantee security in the south."

One Western military source said the militia was "a superficial creature which does not operate on its own. It has been imposed on the area with totally the wrong composition."

Another said it was clear the people in the south were opposed to the Israelis and "as this so-called army is always under Israeli control the population cannot have confidence in it."

The militia's stated mission includes tasks that have tested the resources of even the 10,000 to 15,000 Israeli troops in South Lebanon, who are equipped with the latest hardware and backed by a formidable intelligence system.

When Gen. Lahad took command of the militia on March 4, he listed its tasks as to assure security and stability in the south, to guarantee the security of Israel's northern border, to preserve co-existence between all sects, and to give full support to all institutions of the Lebanese state.

To assure security, Israel has deployed thousands of men in strongholds defended with earth ramps and barbed wire, ready to use their full military power to deter commando attacks and subdue local resistance.

Troops close off villages for days at a time to search houses and interrogate hundreds of young men. But despite this, commando attacks on the Israelis continue.

To protect Israel's northern border against Palestinian commando infiltration, the Israeli troops have severely restricted traffic in and out of South Lebanon, checking travellers against computerised security files.

They have the firepower of the Israeli Air Force to support them by striking at commando bases outside the Israeli-occupied area.

Even so, some commandos may be slipping through. Some official Israeli statements suggested that the three Palestinians who injured 48 people in a gun and grenade rampage in occupied Jerusalem this month had entered Israel from Lebanon.

The militia has few resources and its activities are limited.

It means a number of roadblocks around the mountain town of Jezzine, the port of Sidon, and its headquarters in Marjayoun near the Israeli border. It has a number

of small garrisons in places such as Sidon and Nabatieh and has small units attached to Israeli bases in various parts of the south.

The militia has a number of refurbished Super-Sherman tanks and American-made armoured personnel carriers supplied by Israel but Western military sources doubt whether it has many men who know how to use them.

The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), which has been in part of the south since an earlier Israeli incursion in 1978 and still operates despite the Israeli occupation, disarms any members of the militia it finds carrying weapons.

U.N. sources said the militia was behaving very cautiously in the UNIFIL zone, rarely venturing into any of the villages or moving away from the protection of Israeli bases.

Western military sources said they understood the Israelis had been considering assigning about 400 of their own men to lead the South Lebanon army if the main body of Israelis withdrew.

But the sources said that with or without the Israelis, the militia would face great difficulty in operating in southern areas.

"If they were left on their own the situation could get very bad very quickly," one source said.

Western diplomats in Beirut see the problems of the militia as one part of a wider dilemma facing Israel following its failure to secure a full-scale peace treaty with Lebanon.

When Israel invaded Lebanon, it defeated the Palestinians and their Lebanese allies and cleared the way for the election of Bashir Gemayel as president.

Mr. Gemayel favoured a peace agreement with Israel to break free of the influence of Syria, which had dominated events in Lebanon since using its army to end the 1975-76 civil war. But Mr. Gemayel was assassinated before he could take office.

His brother Amin succeeded him and reached an agreement on the withdrawal of Israeli troops that had some of the features of a peace treaty and allowed Israel a role in policing South Lebanon. But Syria and Lebanese opposition fought successfully to force Mr. Gemayel to abrogate the agreement.

The diplomats said Israel was still trying to produce some form of "security arrangements" in South Lebanon to ensure that its invasion had a lasting result. But with the Haddad militia so weak and local resistance so strong, no easy solution was available.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

17:30 Koran
17:40 Cartoons
18:00 Children's Programme
18:30 Programme on Film-making
19:20 Programme Review
19:30 Programme on Agriculture
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic Series
22:00 Tourism Programme
23:00 Local Programme
23:10 Local Programme (Cont.)
23:15 Local Programme (Cont.)

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 L'Art Au Monde Des Tenebres
19:15 News in French (Journal)
19:30 La Vie Des Autres
20:00 News in Hebrew
20:30 Buffalo Bill: Ep. 13
21:00 Documentary: Body Human
22:00 News in English
22:15 Hotel: Flashback

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz: AM & 99 MHz: FM
partly on 95.60 KHz: ST
07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary
10:30 Morning Show
11:00 Morning Show
11:30 Pop Session
12:00 News Summary
12:30 Pop Session
13:00 News Summary
13:30 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instruments
14:30 Oh! Mother
15:00 News Summary
15:30 Instruments
16:00 Old Favourites
17:00 Jordan Weekly
18:00 Pop Session
18:30 News Summary
19:00 Over a Cup of Tea
19:30 Music
20:00 News Desk
20:30 Date with a Star
21:00 Evening Show
21:30 News Summary
22:00 Evening Show
22:30 News Summary
23:00 News Summary
23:30 News Headlines

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz
06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 Waveguide 06:40

BOOK CHOICE

06:45 Financial News
06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News
07:05 24 Hours: News Summary 07:30
What's New 07:45 The World Today
08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Omnibus 09:00
World News 09:05 24 Hours: News
Summary 09:30 That's The Deal 09:45
Report on Religion 10:00 World News 10:05
Reflections 10:15 Peeples' Choice 10:30
I'm Sorry I'll Read That Again 11:00
World News 11:05 British Press Review
11:15 The World Today 11:30 Financial
News 11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 These
Musical Islands 12:15 Patrick Marryat's
Music Book 12:30 The Ministry and
Political Science of 1945 Bounty 12:50
Recording of the Week 13:00 World
News 13:05 News about Britain 13:15
World Service Short Story 13:30 Mer-
idian 14:00 Radio Newsweek 14:15 Na-
ture Notebook 14:25 The Farming
World 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00
World News 15:05 24 Hours: News
Summary 15:10 Inspiration 15:45 Holes
and his Circle 16:15 Report on Religion
16:30 The Marvellous Girl 17:00 World
Newsweek 17:15 Outlook 18:00 World
News 18:05 Commentary 18:15 Coun-
terpoint 18:45 The World Today 19:00
World News 19:05 Monitor 19:25 News
Ideas 19:35 Waveguide 19:45 Sports
Round-up 20:00 Newsdesk 20:30 Top
Twenty 21:00 Outlook 21:30 Stock
Market Report 21:43 Look Ahead 21:45
A Treasury of Music 22:00 World News
22:05 24 Hours: News Summary 22:30
Assignment 23:00 Network U.K. 23:15
International Soccer Special 24:00
World News 06:00 The World Today
06:25 Book Choice 06:30 Financial
News 06:40 Reflections 06:45 Sports
Round-up 07:00 World News 07:05
Commentary 07:15 The Future of Work
07:30 Top Twenty

VOICE OF AMERICA

66:00 VOA Morning News on the
beats; news summaries; daily business
reports; science and medicine; sports
reports; VOA editorial and world and
U.S. opinion roundups; analysis, view-
points, features 17:00 News 17:30 Spe-
cial English News and Features 18:00
News 18:10 Focus 18:30 Now Music
USA 19:00 News 19:10 Newsline 19:30
Special English News and Features
20:00 News 20:10 Focus 20:30 Now
Music USA 21:00 Newsline 21:30 Mag-
azine Show 22:00 News and Editorial
22:15 Music USA Jazz 23:00 VOA
World Report

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* Exhibition of Soviet paintings, ceramic industries and embroidery at the Alia Art Gallery.

* Exhibition of paintings by Kamal Boullata at the Jordan National Gallery.

* Photographs exhibition by Saleh Dababneh opens at the Professional Associations Complex.

* The Bahrain Exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* Exhibition of important oriental prints from the 19th century in Alia Art Gallery.

* Australian graphic art Donnell Patterson at Alia Art Gallery.

* "Kamikaze" at the Goethe Institute at 8:00 p.m.

* Ziad ou la Descente at the French Cultural Centre at 4:00 p.m.

* Cultural Centres

Royal Cultural Centre, Tel: 6610367

American Centre Library 44371

British Council 36147-8

French Cultural Centre 37009

Goethe Institute 41993

Soviet Cultural Centre 44203

Spanish Cultural Centre 34049

Turkish Cultural Centre 39777

Haya Arts Centre 665195

Husseini Youth City 667181

W.C.A.A. 41793

Y.W.M.A. 664251

Amman Municipal Library 36111

University of Jordan Library 843555

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.

Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00 p.m.

Royal Automobile Club, Jabel Amman, Eighth Circle, Tel. 815261.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, tel. 24590.

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabel Lubwadeh, 37440.

De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Hussein, 661757.

Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 23541.

Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabel Amman, 41559.

Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 71331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 75261.

St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 71751.

American International Church (Inter-denominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, 663249.

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum. Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (1st to 18th centuries). The Roman theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a

UNRWA teachers protest against agency inaction on salary review

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA) Teachers Executive Committee Tuesday expressed its anxiety and concern over an official circular issued by the UNRWA office in Jordan saying that it could not accept the findings of the International Civil Service Commission's (ICSC) survey for teachers in Jordan.

At the request of the UNRWA, central office, the ICSC conducted a survey on teachers' salaries in Jordan and as a result, submitted recommendations which proposed increases in the salaries ranging from 18 to 25 per cent. This, the proposal said, should be

retroactive with effect from October 1983.

Teachers agreed to take part in the survey after receiving assurances from the agency that any salary adjustments which such a survey might recommend would be paid to them, a spokesman for the teachers said.

Teachers expressed their astonishment at the UNRWA's decision to contest the results of the survey especially as the procedure to be followed in the survey was agreed upon in advance by both parties concerned, the spokesman added.

In a cable addressed to the UNRWA commissioner-general, Olof Rydbeck, and copied to the United Nations secretary-general, Javier Perez de Cuellar and to the chairman of the ICSC, the teachers' committee said the contents of the circular are "disappointing and will have an adverse impact on the performance of the teachers."

The executive committee said it had decided to call an emergency meeting of the teachers council for April 30 to decide the measures to be adopted if the agency insists on its stand.

Earlier Monday, the teachers committee held an emergency meeting to discuss the UNRWA bulletin on the survey after which they issued a statement which was distributed to teachers. In this statement they criticised the agency's stand describing it as being evasive.

"The agency is not honouring its agreement with the teachers under the pretext that it is illegal," the statement said.

"The agency, through its recent stand, has overlooked its responsibility towards the Palestinian refugees. It has also tried to ignore the fact that it has cut services and has justified these on the grounds that it is improving its educational and health services to the refugees," the statement added.

On Saturday UNRWA in Jordan distributed the circular, which was signed by the agency director here Per Olof Hallqvist, in which it said that during an UNRWA meeting in Vienna on April 17-18 it was decided not to accept the recommendations of the ICSC survey.

Its specific objection, according to the circular, was that too many of the employees were classified as belonging to the private sector in the survey while most of the posts held by UNRWA staff are in fact quasi-governmental ones.

It also said that the final analysis of the results will not be completed for another ten days.

Report says commercial amounts of oil found here

AMMAN (J.T.) — An Iraqi team of experts, who conducted seismological surveys in Jordan, has reported the existence of commercial quantities of oil in the country.

A team spokesman, according to a report in Al Dustour newspaper, told the Iraqi News Agency (INA) that surveys are still continuing in various parts of Jordan and so far 1,219 square kilometres of land have been surveyed especially in

the Qatranab region of the Irbid Governorate and the Azraq oasis.

The results of seismological surveys are being processed by Iraqi oil experts in Baghdad, INA is reported as saying.

The Iraqi team started operations in May last year within the course of a programme of co-operation between Jordan and Iraq signed in 1981, the spokesman said.

Delegates review progress in compulsory education

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day conference on compulsory education in Jordan opened at the University of Jordan Tuesday.

Altogether 17 working papers are to be reviewed by specialists in education, mostly about the learning process at the primary school level.

University President Abdul Salam Al Majali, who deputised for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan in opening the conference, said in a speech that "education was the first industry in Jordan and the first commodity to be exported to other countries was trained manpower."

Nearly one third of Jordan's population are students at schools or universities and post-secondary education in Jordan is amongst the highest in the world, Dr. Majali said.

Also speaking on the first day was Dr. Abdul Rahman Adas, dean of the University's Faculty of Education and chairman of the conference's preparatory committee.

He said that primary education has spread throughout the country and, over the past 30 years, elementary students have increased

four fold in number. However, he continued, this was not accompanied by efforts to train teachers capable of imparting good education at this important stage of a child's development.

The great number of students at the elementary level has forced the country to adopt the two-shift system, whereby the school is used by double the normal number of students in two sittings.

Remittances increase

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanians working abroad last year transferred a total of JD 412 million to Jordan, registering an 8.1 per cent increase over the 1982 figures.

A report by the Industrial Development Bank said that currency circulation in Jordan has increased from JD 787.5 million at the end of 1982 to 869.4 million at the end of 1983.

It said that during this period loans granted to the public sector increased from JD 842.98 million at the end of 1982 to JD 993.3 million by the end of 1983.

Queen opens Arab League women's committee meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday inaugurated at the Amra Hotel in Amman the 11th session of the Arab Women's Committee.

Delivering the opening speech, Minister of Social Development Abdul Salam Kana'an said that Amman in hosting various Arab meetings is achieving one of its major objectives, that is to unite the Arab fold and to strengthen the will of the Arab Nation in order to confront the current and future challenges facing it.

Mr. Kana'an said that women's issues are an integrated part of our battle against the backwardness which Arab societies are suffering from.

United approach

The underdevelopment in the health, social and educational fields, in addition to a number of environmental and economic factors, urge us, men and women alike, to unite our efforts and to work seriously to eradicate the causes of

backwardness, Mr. Kana'an added.

"If plans and legislation aimed at upgrading the status of women as human beings, as well as enabling them to contribute positively to the work force are to be introduced, then the women's role in raising a family is a subject which should be taken into consideration, Mr. Kana'an said.

Also speaking at the meeting was the director of the Women's Department at the Arab League, who thanked Queen Noor for patronising the meeting and outlined the importance of women's participation in development plans.

During the meeting of the committee, participants will discuss the draft Arab women's strategy to counter Zionist plans, the voluntary fund for Arab Women, the role of Iraqi women in confronting Iranian aggression and the role of Arab women in supporting Iraqi women, in addition to the conditions of Arab women's federations and associations.

Image of women

Participants will also discuss a number of topics relating to the image of women in the Arab World and a draft seminar on the impact of democratic change on women and the family.

The Jordanian delegation will present a working paper on working women in Jordan and their role in agriculture, industry and commerce.

Head of the Jordanian delegation, Mrs. Haifa Al Bashir, was elected chairman of the current session, while the head of the Iraqi delegation was elected vice-chairman and the head of the Moroccan delegation was elected rapporteur.

Also attending the inauguration, were the minister of information, Mrs. Lalla Sharaf, the wives of the prime minister and the commander-in-chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, and a number of Jordanian women.

French envoy to open food exhibition here today

AMMAN (J.T.) — SOPEXA, the French Food Council, is organising on April 25 at the Jordan Inter-continental hotel here, a display of French foodstuffs which will include a wide variety of French food products.

Ambassador of France in Jordan Jacques de Sedouy will preside over the opening of the display.

Ibrahim Ayyoub, the minister of supply, the under-secretary at the ministry and top officials, the presidents of Amman Chambers of Commerce and of Industry, and businessmen have also been invited.

The display will be followed by a promotional campaign for these products in supermarkets in

Amman, Irbid and Aqaba.

At the same time, SOPEXA will organise a contest, the winners of which will be offered gifts, the first prize being two tickets for a trip to Paris with one week's stay in the Paris Inter-continental hotel.

Jordan buys large quantities of French foods such as dairy products, meat, sugar, sweets and cocoa products all of which, in 1983, totalled JD 7 million.

The French Food Council is a governmental and professional establishment created in 1961 to promote French food exports.

It has 17 offices all over the world and its Middle East office is located in Dubai.

Ministers open conference on Arabsat

(Continued from page 1)

can make assessments of progress in such fields of science, and your aspirations should go beyond the purchase and investment of a space service for telecommunications or other information activity. Your charter clearly stipulated that you intend to conduct research in the science of space and its technology and you pledged to encourage the establishment of industries to supply components for the required space stations.

We must remember that importing advanced technology is one thing and transferring knowledge is another.

I understand the charter of Arabsat as one similar to that of the U.S. or European space agencies. Therefore I hope that Arabsat will succeed in attracting qualified people to work in the spirit of science and technology to catch up with other nations.

To have integrated work you are bound to co-operate with Arab ministers of culture and education to prepare material that will be beamed throughout the Arab World.

Zaben stresses achievements

Also addressing the opening session was Minister of Communications, Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben who referred to the fact that since its establishment Arabsat has doubled its capital of \$100 million, and that the organisation has taken the decision of launching the Arab satellite in November this year. This organisation, the minister, is in need of more support and care. Once Arabsat has succeeded in overcoming obstacles in the way of launching the satellite the road will be open for Arab states to make more achievements, the minister added.

'Confronting challenges'

There was another speech by Dr. Abdul Hassan Zalzalah, Arab League assistant secretary general

for economic affairs, who underlined the importance of "confronting the challenges represented in backwardness, divisions and tutelage." He referred to the Amman Arab summit meeting of 1980 in which, he said, Arab leaders chose to seek economic integration among their countries to achieve progress for the Arab Nation.

Space communications, Dr. Zalzalah said, should be integrated in Arab economic projects because it is an integral part of communications in general and its services are intertwined with other forms of communications.

Arab states still lack a unified strategy in this field despite the fact that great progress has been achieved in air, overland and maritime communications in the Arab region, Dr. Zalzalah said.

He referred to Israel's intention of launching two satellites whose orbits will intermingle with that of the projected Arab satellite in violation of international laws and in open threat to Arab scientific achievements. "This challenge requires solidarity and unity and concerted action to abort enemy designs," Dr. Zalzalah said.

The third speaker was Issa Mohammad Al Mazidi, Kuwait's minister of communications, who reviewed in his speech the achievements of the Arabsat organisation and the steps taken to launch the Arab satellite.

Technical aspects

Ministers of communications and experts from various participating countries are discussing the launching plans, annual report finances and other issues related to the launching of the first Arab satellite scheduled for November.

Arabsat spokesman Fayez Al Qudah told the Jordan Times that three satellites have been manufactured and supplied to Arabsat by Aerospatiale of France at a cost of \$135 million.

A second satellite will be launched by the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in May 1985

to complement the first satellite whilst the third satellite will remain on Earth as reserve, Mr. Qudah said.

The Arabsat system will comprise of two geosynchronous satellites, a number of communications Earth stations located in the Arab member countries and a satellite control network (SCN) providing the telemetry, tracking, command and monitoring (TTC & M) functions for the spacecraft.

The Arabsat system will be complementary to the terrestrial network as well as the global satellite system (Intelsat).

The primary TTC & M station and a satellite control centre will be located at the Arabsat headquarters in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia with a secondary backup TT & C earth station in Tunis.

An Arabsat engineer said that the system is designed to meet the telecommunication requirements of the Arab League countries until 1990 when the system will be replaced as the working life of a satellite is between seven and nine years.

The Arab satellite system will provide primary telephone, television and radio services in addition to a variety of data communications services including electronic mailing, electronic message services, database access and information processing, financial transactions, credit checking, inventory control and computer database file transfer.

The opening session of the Amman meeting Tuesday was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sulaiman Arar and several cabinet members. All Arab states are represented at the conference with the exception of Lebanon and Libya.

Falangists to join cabinet

(Continued from page 1)

He did not rule out serving under Mr. Karami but refused to reveal whom he preferred.

Shiite Muslim leader Nabih Berri has said he would not serve in a cabinet with Mr. Gemayel, but political analysts said they thought this was merely making a tactical manoeuvre.

Besides wanting all parties to participate, Mr. Karami said he wanted agreement on political reforms which Muslim politicians have been demanding.

Mr. Gemayel said: "We all agree there must be reforms... there is accord on most of the broad lines, but there are details that haven't been entirely decided."

But he said most reforms should be decided after the government is formed.

He said he would not block increasing the number of parliamentary seats from 99 to 130 to facilitate a plan to divide power equally among Muslims and Christians. This would end dominance of the body.

But he completely rejected proposals to nominate rather than elect new members, and said elections would be impossible now with Syria and Israel occupying about two-thirds of the country.

Though the Falangist Party has long opposed the Syrian presence in Lebanon, he said Syria now "is playing a role that is to our profit."

He pointed to the new understanding with Syria, the Soviet-backed neighbour which has emerged as the main power-broker in Lebanon following the collapse of U.S. policy here in February.

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A sudden 're-awakening'

PRESSURE has apparently mounted on the Israelis to explain the deaths of two Palestinian commandos who hijacked an Israeli bus two weeks ago. The Israeli army has said four commandos were killed when troops stormed the bus in a hail of gunfire to thwart the operation. Reporters and photographers at the scene, however, said they saw only two or three bodies after soldiers opened fire against the Palestinians. And a photograph taken by the newspaper Hadashot shows what appears to be one of the commandos being led away alive by troops.

The Israelis announced Sunday that they were launching an inquiry into the matter. A sudden re-awakening of conscience, you would think. But not exactly.

The Israeli authorities have responded to the possibility that the guerrilla who was led away alive, by the Israeli soldiers was actually murdered in cold blood by them only because it matters deeply to Israel not the life of one or two Arabs. The inquiry is ordered because Palestinian commandos will have learned never to surrender to the Israelis in the future.

We all know the implications of an Israeli policy to execute surrendering guerrillas. These would have nothing to lose by the fighting to the death and possibly taking many people with them. Hence the concern in ruling Israeli circles about the aftermath of the bus operation. And there lies the explanation to the inquiry.

All is a re-play of Sabra and Shatila and the investigation which in the end blamed only Gen. Sharon — but on a smaller scale. "Arik" is still there fighting for his "rights", and proving how strong he is. The suffering by the Palestinians goes on, almost unheard, until another massacre... happens.

How devastating and tragic. So much for Israeli civility and ethics.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Hassan praises democracy

PRINCE HASSAN focused the light on a number of elements which form the basis for many Arab problems in his speech to the Arab Thought Forum meeting Monday. He referred in particular to the Israeli occupation, which he described as constituting an axis of extremism in this region, and he blamed the United States for its continued aid to Israel which encouraged it to adopt this attitude.

Another point in his speech was the democratic rule in Arab states, and in this respect he underlined the importance of people's participation in decision-making. Otherwise, he said, the Arab Nation will remain weak and vulnerable. Democracy, he said, prevents an emergence of extremist rulers and forms the basis for constructive actions. For the Arabs to overcome Zionist extremism and fanaticism they have to be strong and united. The Arabs, Prince Hassan said, should adopt a unified strategy and work to achieve economic integration. A strong regime does not fear democracy, and, therefore, this regime never resorts to extremist actions, whereas a weak regime is always afraid of democracy and tries hard to obstruct its progress. Democracy, therefore, remains the criteria for all regimes which are judged by their actions and their dealings with the people they govern.

Al Dustour: Positive outcome

A STATEMENT issued in Algiers at the end of the Palestinian movements' talks constitutes a constructive step on the way of ending differences among Palestinian parties. The statement could also pave the way for the resumption of activities by PLO's various organisations.

The statement declared that the parties have agreed on the re-opening of the Palestine National Council and on pursuing a dialogue for the purpose of arriving at a unified formula on a joint Palestinian action in the coming stage.

The statement also reflects the atmosphere of the Algiers meeting, and according to Arab observers who attended the meeting, the parties would now begin work to end side differences and pave the way for a new phase of unity among Palestinian factions.

The return of unity among Palestinians will no doubt have its own effect on joint action among Arab states. Palestinian factions have to realise that their accord will play a positive role in joint Arab action. We hope that the Algiers meeting will open the door wide for further inter-Palestinian dialogue and responsible action.

Sawt Al Shaab: Thinkers should move

IN HIS address to the Arab Thought Forum, Prince Hassan called on Arab intellectuals and thinkers to rise to the level of responsibility and help solve the nation's problems. This kind of responsibility is in fact heavy and wide ranging and should cover all aspects of life in Arab society.

In this 20th century, there are advanced nations, and others still lagging behind. There are rich and poor nations, and the Arabs, though rich, belong to that group of nations which are still developing and still trying to find their place among world nations.

The Arab World possesses vast resources and considerable wealth which ought to enable them to develop rapidly and catch up with advanced nations. The Arabs have the historic experience and rich lands but they ought to work towards economic integration, so that they can improve standards of living for all citizens.

The Arab thinker and intellectual, therefore, bears heavy responsibility towards achieving these goals and in solving problems obstructing advancement and development. The Zionist challenge to the Arab Nation imposes on us the task of deciding whether to be or not to be. The Zionists are bent on expansion on our lands and have ambitions in our mineral and water resources. This requires from us to think and find a way to confront the challenge.

The intellectuals taking part in the Arab Thought Forum meeting in Amman have this responsibility, and we hope they will work out solutions.

Uncle Sam turns Santa Claus in 1985

'The best U.S. aid package ever for Israel'

By Carol Giacomo
 Reuter

WASHINGTON — The United States has been unusually generous this year in responding to Israel's wants and needs, approving virtually everything on its shopping list.

The 1985 aid package approved recently by Congress's two foreign policy committees is so favourable that the pro-Israel Near East report called it "the best aid package ever for Israel."

"I've never seen such impact," a top aide of a leading pro-Israel congressman told Reuters, while David Sadd, director of the National Association of Arab Americans, complained: "There has never been a year before to compare with this one... Congress has given the shop away."

The remarkable success of the powerful lobby composed of Israelis and American Jews goes far beyond the aid package.

It includes President Reagan's

decision last month to cancel the sale to Jordan and Saudi Arabia of sophisticated Stinger air defence missiles, and a chorus of congressmen and Democratic presidential hopefuls now backing legislation to move the U.S. embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Such success reflect many factors, including the major influence

in this election year of a U.S. Jewish community courted as much for its financial resources as for its votes.

Contributing to Israel's recent political success in Washington is the fact that the two governments have repaired the damage to their

relations caused by the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon and other differences.

The 1985 aid bill approved by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee provides Israel with \$2.6 billion, including \$1.4 billion in military aid and \$1.2 billion in economic assistance.

The 1984 aid total was the same, but the 1985 allocation is much better for Israel since all of the money is provided as a non-repayable grant rather than an interest-bearing loan.

Proposed by Mr. Reagan and backed by the committees, the grant format recognises that Israel is staggering under huge defence requirements and cannot bear to accumulate more debts.

Owing to its economic difficulties and its role as a partner in the 1979 Camp David peace accords, Egypt also will receive its aid as a grant rather than a loan. But its total, \$2.2 billion, is less than Israel's and less than the \$2.3 billion which Egypt received last year.

The pro-Israel flavour of the 1985 foreign aid bill is evident in other ways as well.

One provision allows Israel to receive its economic aid as a cash payment during the first quarter rather than spread throughout the year. This would cost the U.S. treasury, by one account, \$50 million in interest on its own borrowings.

Another provision allows Israel to receive its economic aid as a cash payment during the first quarter rather than spread throughout the year. This would cost the U.S. treasury, by one account, \$50 million in interest on its borrowings.

Another provision mandates that Israel should never receive less economic aid than the annual debt repayment Israel owes the United States. In 1985, that will be just over \$1 billion.

A pro-Israel source dismissed this provision as a "moot point

that just codifies something that is already a general practice," but a House of Representatives staff aide warned: "It will be very costly."

For the first time since 1974, the house version of the aid bill also "expresses some unhappiness with Egypt," one source said, because its ambassador, recalled after Israel invaded Lebanon, has not returned to Tel Aviv.

The House Foreign Affairs Committee complained about the slow pace of economic reform in Egypt and reminded Cairo that aid was given with the expectation it would adhere to the Camp David accords.

The House bill would let Israel use U.S. aid to develop and produce a new fighter plane and bid on U.S.-funded public works projects in Africa and Central America and would bar advanced arms sales to Jordan until it makes peace with Israel.

It also would formalise a U.S. commitment not to deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation

(PLO) until it recognises Israel's right to exist.

Meanwhile, U.S.-Israeli talks on other matters favourable to Israel are proceeding, including establishing a strategic partnership and a free trade zone giving Israel preferential access to U.S. markets.

Mr. Reagan threatened to veto legislation mandating a move of the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, and it may be too controversial to pass in a presidential election year.

But pro-Israel forces claim a measure of victory in creating a stir with the proposal and making it an issue in the campaign.

Mr. Sadd and other Arab critics charge American policy is too pro-Israel, alienates moderates and jeopardises other U.S. strategic interests in the Middle East.

Too many Israel-related decisions were made quietly by Congress without public debate, Mr. Sadd said, adding: "You know it's the one issue people in America don't like to discuss."



Lisbon cracks down on nationalisations as revolution celebrates 10th anniversary

By Claire Lovell
 Reuter

LISBON — Ten years after the overthrow of the right-wing dictatorship, Portugal, struggling to heal its ailing economy, is reversing many decisions hailed during the decade as revolutionary victories.

For many months following the uprise of April 25, 1974, Portugal shifted between political ideologies and in 1975 was governed by the Communists who introduced large-scale nationalisations.

Today, after the Socialists have come to power, the country that once denounced U.S. imperialism is Washington's ally, a NATO member, steering towards membership of the European Community and trying to encourage a free market.

Soon after Prime Minister Mario Soares came to power last June, heading a coalition with the biggest parliamentary majority in 15 post-revolutionary governments, he took steps to re-open banking and insurance to private enterprise.

Mr. Soares' centrist coalition also imposed a tough austerity programme, conditioned by an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), aimed at halting the rise in the \$14 billion foreign debt and cutting the balance of payments deficit.

The government chooses to blame many of Portugal's economic ills on public sector companies, which have become overstaffed and uncompetitive and

have resorted to many years to credit, adding to the nation's debt.

With the austerity programme's high interest rates and credit limits, many of these companies are now finding themselves on the verge of bankruptcy and have stopped paying wages.

Unions say more than 150,000 workers in both the public and private sectors have not received their full salaries and this, combined with job shortages and price rises is causing hardship.

The unions and the Communist Party hold regular demonstrations against the government's austerity policy and as the 10th anniversary draws near, are accusing Mr. Soares of betraying the principles of the revolution and stealing from the poor.

But Portugal's economic mess did not begin with the revolution that ended nearly half a century of rightwing dictatorship.

The repressive government of Antonio Oliveira Salazar sought to cut Portugal off from the modern world, shunning new ideas, agricultural development, industrialisation and social change.

The dictatorship relied on wealth from the colonies, principally Angola and Mozambique, to keep Portugal afloat. But soon much of the revenue was being used to combat colonial independence movements which emerged in the 1960s.

But the time Portugal's young officers, sick of fighting colonial battles they could not win, rolled their tanks into Lisbon and arrested Mr. Salazar's successor, Marcello Caetano, the economy

was already at breaking point with 49 per cent of the national budget being spent on the African wars.

Annual inflation in the spring of 1974 stood at 30 per cent, the same figure as now.

In the turmoil following the revolution and decolonisation, constant government changes and the inexperience of the new leaders meant no one really set to work to tackle the problem.

"We had no experience of democracy and had to learn through practice," Lt.-Col. Vitor Alves, one of the leaders of the 1974 coup, told Reuters.

Lt. Col. Alves, now an adviser to Portuguese President Antonio Ramalho Eanes, said that after the overthrow of the dictatorship the reforms were perhaps too far reaching.

"We exaggerated with the nationalisations — too much too soon. The rich took their money abroad," he said.

Today's government has also modified strict labour laws introduced to protect workers until the revolution had no security of employment.

The laws make it virtually impossible to dismiss workers and many government members argue they scare away investment, particularly foreign investment.

So far Mr. Soares has introduced a lay-off for the public sector enabling companies in trouble to lay off workers, who receive a proportion of their salaries in return.

With austerity biting into everyone's pocket, Mr. Soares cannot afford to modify the labour law

much more.

Central Bank Deputy Governor Vitor Constancio, a former finance minister, said recently that with the new austerity, real salaries were currently lower than in 1973 and there were no magic solutions to the crisis.

Mr. Soares has said that the second half of the year could see a slight lowering of interest rates in an attempt to begin to restimulate the economy.

IMF officials are basically pleased with his efforts. Exports are up, the budget deficit has been reduced to seven per cent of gross domestic product at the end of 1983 from 11 per cent a year earlier, and the foreign debt has fallen back.

But there are still disagreements over government subsidies on essential goods and the public sector financing and an IMF team is due to return for its third visit this year to sort out the problems and renew last year's accord.

And for all its problems Portugal still has Mr. Salazar's gold.

The dictator amassed large quantities of the precious metal, preferring its tangible wealth to other forms of investment.

Last year Portugal used its approximately \$9-billion worth of gold reserves to back emergency loans.

And though it has a long struggle back to solvency, the gold sets it apart from other developing nations, like those in South America, suffering the crippling effect of international recession.

Smiling Hart part of an anti-Arab mania

IN THE past few weeks the Israeli lobbyists in the Senate and outside have switched their attention from the preparation of a vote of censure to the preparation of a bill to support the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC).

Jewish opinion in Washington is that both the leading Democratic candidates, Mondale as well as Hart, have strong pro-Israel records. "Many of Israel's friends of the Democratic Party conclude that either man would make a good candidate. Between these two, Israel is not going to be a deep issue," says Wolf Blitzer, Washington correspondent of the Jerusalem Post.

Is there any prospect or hope for the Arabs if, perchance, Gary Hart wins the presidential nomination?

He might take Jesse Jackson on his ticket if that meant a solid black vote for a Hart presidency. Jesse has in this campaign endowed blacks with a dignity of which, thank God, they are increasingly conscious. But most observers of Jesse would say, realistically, that if that were the case Jesse would have to "go quiet" on his pro-Arab ideas which have to many brightened his campaign to date. That is the reality of politics. The prospect of a black vice-president would also create apoplexy among the Democratic Party's right-wing American trade union old guard.

Is there anything to be said for Gary Hart on the Arab or pro-Arab side?

He is anti-interventionist in the Arab Gulf. He says that if Iran blocks the Straits of Hormuz, America should do nothing. He points out that Gulf oil now accounts for only three per cent of America's total petroleum consumption and that America could "do without it". He adds, however, that Europe and Japan are dependent on oil from the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) states and that America should be prepared to "support" them with naval and air power.

This seems unrealistic to most observers. Europe and Japan would be most unlikely to do "go it alone" in the Gulf. However, as Gary Hart says: "I don't think the American people are going to support the massive loss of American lives fighting for someone else's oil."

Whether Hart would continue to hold this view as an incumbent president is of course a very different kettle of fish. The Voice of the Arab World.

More damaging to Reagan than to Managua

By Robert Trautman
 Reuter

WASHINGTON — The mining of Nicaraguan harbours has damaged the Managua government far less than President Reagan's Central American policy, according to several congressmen.

Congressmen with access to classified government reports say the mining has impeded commerce but done little to accomplish the administration's main objective — stopping the flow of arms from Leftist Nicaragua to rebels fighting the U.S.-backed government of El Salvador.

They say the small, "band-made" mines have so far damaged

only nine vessels, all of them commercial and only two of them Nicaraguan. The Nicaraguan targets were shrimp boats.

"None of the vessels was reported to be transporting weapons destined for El Salvador," said New York Democrat Ted Weiss. "All were carrying vital economic supplies."

The harbours mined were the main ports of Puerto Corinto and Puerto Sandino on the Pacific and El Bluff on the Caribbean.

The mining has created a storm of protest in Congress, which is convinced the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) masterminded the whole episode, assembling mines in Honduras and El Salvador and deciding where to place them.

Neither the CIA nor the White House has acknowledged U.S. involvement in the use of acoustic mines, which are triggered by the sound of an approaching ship.

This has infuriated some in Congress, particularly opposition Democrats, who say that the administration is required by law to inform the legislative of its military actions.

As a result, Congress has balked at providing Mr. Reagan with the money he says is needed to conduct Central American policy.

It has refused to approve Mr. Reagan's request for \$21 million to continue U.S. backing for Nicaraguan insurgents and \$62 million on military aid for El Salvador.

The White House has countered by saying it will use the president's emergency fund to send aid to El Salvador. But officials concede this is only a temporary solution.

According to congressmen who say they were briefed by the administration, the mining operation has damaged seven non-Nicaraguan commercial vessels and injured 15 crewmen.

A Soviet tanker was hit and five of its crew injured. Other damaged boats included a Dutch ship carrying a dredger, a Panamanian freighter carrying food, medicine and industrial goods, a Liberian ship with molasses and a Japanese vessel.

U.S. hopefuls undergo a long process before getting nominated

By Richard L. Worsnop

Mr. Worsnop is an associate editor of Editorial Research Reports in Washington, D.C.

AMERICA'S 1984 presidential election campaign reaches a decisive turning point at midyear. The Democratic Party will hold its national convention July 16-20 in San Francisco, California, to pick its presidential and vice presidential nominees for the Nov. 6 general election. The Republican Party will do the same at its Aug. 20-23 convention in Dallas, Texas. To millions of Americans and foreigners looking on via television, the conventions probably will appear to be a confusing mixture of drama, tedium and frivolity. National political conventions, writes journalist Theodore E. White, "are a political phenomenon which most foreigners and many Americans fail to understand — for it is uniquely and particularly American, drawn from no handbook of political theory, designed by an master philosopher."

The American convention system essentially is an outgrowth of the constitutional separation of legislative and executive powers. In parliamentary systems such as those in Great Britain and Canada, where legislative and executive powers reside in the national legislature, the main function of party conventions is to discuss and formulate policy. Only rarely are party conventions called upon to choose a party leader who may later become prime minister.

In the United States, on the other hand, a convention's major purpose — its only real justification — is the selection of presidential and vice presidential candidates to take over the executive powers of the country. In addition, the presidential nomination gives to the candidate formal leadership of the party for four years and command of the national party machinery. It is assumed that the candidate, if elected, will make policy in accordance with the party platform, a formal declaration of general principles and objectives. A U.S. president, however, is entirely independent and free to promote policies that may or may not correspond to his party's platform.

The national political convention system, which came into being in the 1830s, has settled into a fairly stable format employed by both major parties. A site committee for each party begins searching for a suitable host city about two years prior to the quadrennial meetings. Adequacy of a convention hall, availability of accommodations, local financial support, and political considerations all influence the site committee's decision. The Democrats' choice of San Francisco for their 1984 convention obviously was influenced by the fact that California is the nation's most populous state. Similarly, the

Republicans chose Dallas because Texas is a rapidly growing state with a large number of voters.

Permanent agency

The national committee, the permanent agency authorized to act on behalf of the party between conventions, ratifies or rejects the site committee's recommendations. The national committee also has the responsibility of drawing up an official call (formal declaration) of the convention, publishing the allocation of delegates and alternate delegates from each state, drawing up a temporary roll of delegates, and recommending a slate of officers who perform various ceremonial and administrative tasks. All these actions, however, are subject to review and approval by the entire convention when it meets. As creature of the national convention, the national committee is subordinate to the convention's control and direction.

Several important meetings usually take place during the week preceding the convention. These include meetings of the resolutions (platform), credentials and rules committees. The platform committee hears testimony from a wide range of individuals and special-interest groups; the credentials committee evaluates the pleas of competing delegations from states where problems of certification have arisen; the national committee may meet to consider problems relating to rules of convention procedure.

The convention itself is now designed to last four days, usually from Monday through Thursday. Since the advent of nationwide television more than three decades ago, almost all convention sessions have been scheduled for evening so that the widest possible audience may view them. A four-day convention usually conducts its business as follows:

First Day — The national party chairman officially opens the convention, which then votes on the slate of officers recommended by the national committee. The chairman or another respected party leader — often a distinguished member of Congress — delivers the keynote address. The most important event of the first day is the report of the credentials committee on certification of each state's delegation, and the subsequent vote, if necessary, on disputed delegates.

Second Day — The convention approves reports of its major committees. Convention participants discuss the party platform, propose substitute "platforms" or provisions to it, and then vote to accept the platform.

Third Day — Suspense and excitement peak as supporters nomi-

inate their favorite candidates for the presidency and delegates vote on the nominees. To begin the nominations, the roll of states is called — usually in alphabetical order. Each state may place a name in nomination, second a nomination previously made, yield its turn to another state, or pass. After all names have been placed in nomination, balloting begins — again by states called in alphabetical order. Every Republican presidential nominee since 1948, and every Democratic nominee since 1952, has won on the first ballot. Should a first ballot fail to produce a clear winner, subsequent votes are taken until one candidate succeeds in attracting a majority. This often is achieved when a candidate, who considers his chances for victory dimmed, frees delegates committed to him to vote for someone else.

Fourth Day — Sometime during the hours following his nomination, the presidential standard-bearer lets it be known whom he prefers as a vice-presidential running mate. He often persuades someone whom he has defeated for the nomination — someone who offers a contrast in style and ideology — to run with him. This tactic is designed to attract broader public support in the general election. Delegates invariably honour the presidential candidate's choice by nominating and voting for the running mate he chooses. The convention then ends with stirring speeches by the two running mates that are designed to assuage any wounds suffered during the intraparty campaign and to whip up support for the upcoming general election.

All this activity takes place in an atmosphere that may strike many television viewers as carnivallike. Convention delegates commonly wear badges, hats, sashes and other items of apparel that identify their states and the names and images of the candidates they support. The nomination of a candidate normally touches off several minutes of frenzy as placards and banners wave, bands play and multicolored balloons drop from the rafters of the convention hall. It makes for an entertaining spectacle — but it should never be assumed that delegates are anything less than serious about what they are doing. Delegates are party activists who have spent many months back home organizing party functions, campaigning for the candidates of their choice, and, perhaps, running for some local offices themselves. The national convention represents the emotional high point of the election campaign, providing for delegates an opportunity to unwind in public after many months of tedious campaign work.

Year-long preparations

The U.S. presidential campaign

begins more than a year before the conventions, with a series of "straw votes" — informal preference polls conducted at state party functions. The first of these in the current campaign was held by the Democratic Party in California on Jan. 15, 1983. Fred Wertheimer, the president of Common Cause, a citizens' lobbying group, has said of straw polls: "These events are genuinely artificial affairs attached to party fund-raising, but there's no question they have taken on added significance in the (presidential candidate) selection process."

Selecting delegates

However, the campaign does not begin in earnest until early in the year of the presidential election. It is then that convention delegates are selected by each party on a state-by-state basis. Delegates currently are chosen in two ways:

(1) through primary elections, in which a state's voters go individually to the polls to indicate on the ballot, to be their party's presidential nominee; or

(2) through caucuses, where party members meet in groups to pick delegates committed to vote at the convention for one or another candidate — or for no candidate in particular. The latter are uncommitted delegates, free to vote for whom they wish at the national convention.

During the delegate-selection season, private polling organizations measure the progress of the presidential race by taking numerous public-opinion surveys at the local, state, regional and national levels. It is considered vitally important for a candidate to do well in an early caucus state like Iowa or an early primary state like New Hampshire. A good showing there helps to build momentum — the feeling that a front-running candidate is bound to win the party's nomination. This feeling, if widespread, is reflected in the national opinion surveys and reported in the media, producing still more momentum.

Poll taking and media coverage of the presidential campaign continue without letup from the end of the Democratic and Republican conventions until election day — always the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. In some ways the job of the polling organizations and the news media is easier at this stage of the campaign than it was during the pre-convention period. The field of presidential candidates has been narrowed to two (although a third-party candidate may occasionally warrant extensive attention) and the issues have become clearer.

But in other ways the task is more difficult. The media — newspapers and magazines as well as television and radio — recognize that they must take particular care to provide balanced coverage of

both parties, lest they be accused of favouring one over the other. And the poll-takers, whose reputation derives from their accuracy in gauging public sentiment at any given point in the campaign, generally interview more people and ask them more questions than they did during the primary-caucus season.

Even in an age of nationwide television and radio, American presidential candidates usually make it a point to visit and deliver speeches in as many of the 50 states as possible. Giving voters the chance to see a candidate in person, and perhaps even to speak to him and shake his hand, is regarded as good politics at the national level. In 1960 Richard M. Nixon, the Republican presidential nominee, undertook to visit all 50 states in his unsuccessful election race against John F. Kennedy. He was the first (and still the only) presidential candidate ever to have accomplished such a feat.

Starts with a small town

On election day American voters go to the polls to register their choices for president and for congressional, state and local office seekers. The first to do so, by tradition, are those in the small town of Dixville Notch, New Hampshire. They cast their ballots shortly after midnight so that their collective decision can be announced to the rest of the nation on radio and television well before the polls have opened elsewhere.

The voting continues all day long. Partial or complete returns are announced on radio and television as soon as they are available. Because the country spans several time zones, complete results from the East Coast are known on the West Coast while westerners still have time to vote. This being the case, there have been recurrent proposals to withhold disclosure of early voting figures until all the nation's polling places have closed.

It is a peculiarity of American politics — one not found anywhere else in the world — that the popular vote for president does not officially determine the winner. What counts is the electoral vote. Each state has electoral votes equal to the number of representatives and senators from that state. A presidential candidate who wins even the narrowest majority or plurality of a state's popular vote wins all of that state's electoral votes. Since there are 538 electoral votes in all, 270 are needed for victory.

Electoral College

Members of the Electoral College cast their ballots in the 50 state capitals and the District of Columbia about six weeks after Election Day, and the results are certified at a joint session of Congress early in January. Only then is

the election of the president official. The inaugural ceremony, whether the president is newly elected or re-elected, always takes place at the Capitol in Washington on Jan. 20 of the year following election day. By that time the political conventions of the previous summer are only a distant memory, even though preparations for the next conventions already will be under discussion by officials of both major parties.

Chaotic as they often seem to be, national conventions have the cardinal virtue of flexibility. They make their own rules and may freely change them every four years. Over the decades they have shown great adaptability to new demands and changed circumstances. Thus, the conventions have survived and profited from such things as primary election and the advent of nationwide radio and television. Another merit of the convention system is that it affords

opportunities for new personalities to rise quickly to the positions of party leader and president. As a result, the convention is able to nominate an obscure "dark horse" or to draft a reluctant but attractive candidate. Through the convention system, candidates of the quality of Charles Evans Hughes, Woodrow Wilson, Wendell L. Willkie and Adlai E. Stevenson came to the fore. All were relative newcomers to politics or were reluctant to seek the presidential nomination.

Not even its staunchest supporters would argue that the convention system is perfect or perfectible. Its defects as well as its strengths derive ultimately from the larger political system of which it is part. Criticism of the convention system no doubt will continue — as will the system itself. History, after all, is on its side — U.S. Information Agency.

Greeks move slow on taking to civil marriage

By Artemis Pittas
Associated Press

ATHENS — Two years after the Socialist government introduced civil marriage, most Greek couples prefer an elaborate ritual in an incense-filled Orthodox Church to a simple three-minute ceremony in the local town hall.

Only one in 10 Greek couples has opted for a civil wedding since the civil ceremony was introduced by law in March 1982. Official statistics show most of the 5,000-odd civil marriages so far celebrated took place in cities.

In the small mountain town of Florina in northern Greece, for example, only five civil ceremonies have been held so far.

"Ending the centuries-old religious monopoly on marriage was a vital social reform that was long overdue, but Greeks, even if they are not religious, find it hard to escape from the customs of an old-fashioned society dominated by the church," Thanassis Tsouras, secretary general of the Interior Ministry, said in an interview with the Associated Press.

Mr. Tsouras said civil marriages did not appeal to most Greeks' taste for "the ceremony and fuss" of an hour-long Orthodox service that includes a wedding dance as guests shower the newlyweds with rose-petals and rice.

By contrast, civil weddings are conducted in quick succession once or twice a week by local officials in bare rooms in town halls. The ceremony costs only 100 drachmas (\$1) while ornate church weddings can soar to 50,000 drachmas (\$500).

"People are still suspicious of civil ceremonies. They think there

must be something wrong if they're so cheap and simple," Christos Lorenzatos, who runs inner Athens' civil marriage office, said.

The inner Athens area, which holds an average 20 civil ceremonies a week, has the highest proportion of civil to church weddings in Greece with 1,087 civil marriages to 7,750 religious ceremonies in 1983.

He said distrust of civil marriage in Greece's family-dominated society also meant many couples have two wedding ceremonies.

"The civil service was for us but our parents insisted we have a church wedding as well later on," American-born Stamata Dreliozis, 25, said after her wedding at Athens town hall.

Most Greek Orthodox priests issue warnings to their flock to avoid what churchmen call the "hypocritical new alternative."

"Couples who choose civil marriage commit a sin which excludes them from further support from the Christian Church," the Rev. George Pironakis, a priest from Eleusis near Athens, said.

Rev. Pironakis, like many orthodox clergy, has threatened he would refuse to officiate at baptisms or burials for Greeks who married outside the church.

The Socialist government is now pressing for more enticing civil marriages by advising local mayors to dress up their town halls with flowers and accompany ceremonies with taped music.

"We don't want to imitate church weddings but people should know a civil marriage doesn't mean they can't wear wedding dresses, invite all their friends and drink champagne," Mr. Tsouras said.

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Courage: Name of the game in European soccer

Liverpool faces tough test in Bucharest

LONDON (R) — With the price of a European Cup final place at stake, pure football skill may not be as important as courage in Wednesday's semifinals in Rome and Bucharest.

Sadly, both first-leg ties ended in controversy and the feeling persists that personal vendettas will be continued and retribution meted out.

English Champions Liverpool take a slender 1-0 advantage to Romania where they will have to face a Dinamo Bucharest side which can best be described as "rugged."

The Romanians had four players cautioned at Anfield and will be without the suspended And-one. They will also be missing midfielder Mavila who trooped off the pitch clutching a broken jaw two weeks ago while his team-mates glowered accusingly at Liverpool captain Graeme Souness.

Nor can Scotland's Dundee United expect a warm welcome in Italy following their stunning 2-0 first-leg triumph over glamorous Roma.

The Italians offered little but excuses that night and among their complaints were... lack of dope tests... the Tannadice changing rooms... a dubious refereeing decision... and even the quality of the ball.

Of the two British teams, Liverpool appear the better equipped to survive on foreign soil.

The 1977, 1978 and 1981 European Cup winners have already beaten Benfica and Athletic Bilbao away from home this season and the likes of Souness, Phil Neal, Kenny Dalglish and Ian Rush will not be intimidated by a hostile 70,000 crowd.

But Liverpool — and Souness in particular — can expect few favours from Dinamo who were none too particular about what or whom they kicked at Anfield and "The Reds" will guard their limbs as anxiously as their one-goal lead.

Roma, too, have earned a robust reputation over the years, although the accent has shifted to skill under Swedish manager Nils Liedholm, who commendably stayed out of the bickering in Scotland.

With the Italian championship seemingly destined for Juventus, the Romans will be doubly determined to reach the European Cup final which will be played in their own Olympic Stadium on May 30.

May 30.

They will be strengthened by the return of Brazilian World Cup star Paulo Roberto Falcão, who missed the first leg through injury, and his presence could be a telling factor.

To United, the European Cup has already been something of a fairytale and manager Jim McLean is well aware Roma will be an entirely different proposition with Falcão and 75,000 fans in attendance.

The Scots, accustomed to playing in front of average crowds of just 11,000, will be under intense pressure in the Olympic Stadium and much will depend on how they temper their natural attacking instincts.

While romantics would welcome Dundee United's appearance in the final, logic suggests it will be Roma — although extra time may be needed — who emerge victorious for a probable showdown with Liverpool.

Hopes of another all-British final in the Cupwinners' competition in Basle on May 16 dipped two weeks ago when injury-crippled Manchester United were held to a 1-1 draw by Juventus at Old Trafford, leaving the Italians strong favourites to qualify with holders Aberdeen.

The Scots, who meet Portugal's

Porto, went down by a single goal in the first leg but should have little difficulty in making up the lead-way on home soil.

United are again likely to be without England captain Bryan Robson and Dutch midfielder Arnold Muhren and it is hard to imagine them surviving against a Juventus side still smarting from last season's Champions' Cup final humiliation against Hamburg.

The best hope for an all-British final lies in the UEFA Cup where Tottenham and Nottingham Forest both appear to have a good chance of surviving tricky assignments.

Forest, twice winners of the Champions' Cup, have to travel to Brussels to face holders Anderlecht. But the two precious goals they scored in the last five minutes in the first leg left Forest in the driving seat and Anderlecht's reign may be nearing its end.

Tottenham have been the most unpredictable team in England this season but returned from Yugoslavia only 2-1 in arrears against the highly-talented Huddersfield Town.

If the Londoners' defence holds up — and that is always a big "if" — their attack looks capable of scoring the goals which will take them into next month's two-leg final.

FIFA delegation inspects '86 World Cup sites

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A committee from the International Federation of Football Association (FIFA) arrived Monday for an inspection tour of stadiums to be used during the 1986 soccer World Cup.

The delegation also will be present Tuesday for the unveiling of the official slogan and mascot. The four-member review committee, headed by Herman Neuberger of West Germany and Joseph Blatter of Sweden, will decide if the stadiums presented by the Mexican organising committee meet FIFA standards.

"We hope to have tomorrow the list of the 12 stadiums to start working on the distribution of locations and the remodelling that must be done on them," Neuberger told reporters from Mexico's Excelsior newspaper.

Only nine of the 12 stadiums necessary for the 24-team event have been confirmed so far. FIFA authorised an extension from the March 15 deadline to Thursday, Mexico City's Aztec stadium, the country's largest with seating capacity of 110,000, has not been confirmed because box owners there refuse to concede their seats to FIFA for the World Cup.

The international organisation requires stadiums to have minimum capacity for 40,000 spectators and to be free of all private commitments and publicity.

Mexico took over the host role for the 1986 World Cup after Colombia backed out because of the expense. Mexico also hosted 1970 tournament.

As the host team, Mexico has an automatic slot along with Italy, the 1982 champion.

Saudis qualify for Olympics

SINGAPORE (R) — Saudi Arabia became the first Asian country to qualify for the Los Angeles Olympic soccer tournament Tuesday with a thrilling 5-4 win over South Korea.

Striker Saleh Al Dossary hammered home a low shot from a difficult angle six minutes from time to settle a fiercely-fought see-saw battle.

The Koreans finished in second place in Group 'A', ahead of Kuwait on goal difference, to earn a playoff with the runner-up of Group 'B' for the Asia-Oceania's third place at the Olympics.

Play at the Singapore national stadium was held up in the last few minutes. Riot police charged onto the field as some of the South Korean fans pelted Indonesian referee S Sudarso and the Saudi players with plastic packets and paper fans.

In Group 'B', Qatar need only draw their final match on Thursday to join Saudi Arabia next July, while Iraq and Malaysia vie for the second playoff place.

South Korea took an early lead

with two goals in three minutes. Choun Jong Sun found the mark with a 25-metre shot in the 14th minute then Jong Hae Won capped skillful footwork, hitting the second from 15 metres.

Saudi Arabia took 40 minutes to get on the scoresheet. Striker Shaye Al Nafesah hit home from close range after Jang Jung cleared Majed Mohammad's 10-metre shot off the line.

Saudi Arabia went into the interval 2-1 down but took only two minutes to get level through Mehaisen Aldosari.

Their relief was short-lived as the Koreans went back into the lead only two minutes later. Shin Yong Ho's header was deflected past goalkeeper Khaled Aldossari.

Eight minutes later the match was tied again after fullback Kim Pan Keun downed the Saudi centre forward Mohammad in the penalty area. Mohammad made no mistake with the penalty kick.

In the 65th minute Saudi Arabia took the lead with a brilliant individual goal from Mohammad

— his sixth in four matches. He sprinted into the penalty area, drew goalkeeper Jong Ki Dong out of position and scored with a low 10-metre shot.

South Korea came back through substitute striker Lee Kil Yong to make it 4-4, but Al Dossary clinched the affair for Saudi Arabia.

In an earlier Group 'A' match Tuesday night, Bahrain scored their first victory with a 1-0 win over New Zealand.

Bahrain dominated with their speedy strikers perpetually storming the Kiwis' penalty area.

After a series of narrow misses, Bahrain scored the winner in the 42nd minute in front of 20,000 fans at the Singapore National Stadium.

Striker Ibrahim Al Hardan broke into the penalty area and shot home from 15 metres past the poorly positioned New Zealand goalkeeper, Frank van Hartum.

Bahrain finished second last in the five strong group with New Zealand last.

Budd unlikely to be eligible for Olympics, IOC member says

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — South African distance runner Zola Budd will probably not become eligible for the Summer Olympics despite her British citizenship, a Swedish member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) said Monday night.

Gunnar Ericsson, member of the IOC's eligibility committee, told the Associated Press "it is unlikely that she will be eligible to compete in Los Angeles according to the information I have received on her."

The 17-year-old Budd, who ran the world's fastest unofficial time in the non-Olympic 5,000 metre event early this year in a meet in South Africa, was granted British citizenship recently.

Ericsson said the eight-member IOC eligibility committee will discuss the Budd case on Friday in Lausanne, Switzerland.

According to Ericsson, Olympic eligibility rules are very clear concerning naturalised athletes.

The rules say "a naturalised athlete cannot compete for the new country until she has been a citizen of that nation for three years," Ericsson said.

"As far as I can remember, we have never made an exception from this rule. And I don't expect an exception this time either."

But British track and field officials insist that rule doesn't apply to the Budd case. They have noted that the IOC has the power to waive the eligibility rule.

Her father Frank Budd has a British passport, although he is a South African citizen, but her grandfather was born in London, giving her the right as a minor to claim British citizenship. She was granted citizenship within ten days of applying for it — unusually

quick for such an application. Ericsson said he didn't know if a definite decision in the case would be reached in Lausanne.

"There is a possibility that the eligibility committee's decision will be delayed," Ericsson said. Several Third World nations reportedly have demanded that IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch prevent Budd's bid to compete in Los Angeles.

Budd, whose native South Africa is outlawed from the Olympics and most other international amateur sports because of its apartheid policy, ran the 5,000 in 15 minutes, 1.83 seconds last January.

That was 6.43 seconds faster than the recognised world record set by American double world champion Mary Decker in June 1982.

10-km road race set for May 4

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman Marriott Hotel, with the co-operation of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism and the Jordan Military Sports Council, will hold its Third Annual Classic Ten-Kilometre Road Race on Friday, May 4.

Registration for this annual event is still open at the Marriott Hotel. For every contestant in this event, the Marriott Hotel will donate one dinner to Al Hussein Society for the Physically Handicapped. The hotel has physically handicapped full time employees in its staff.

More than 400 people of all ages took part in last year's race which was held on May 22. The major honours were won by members of the Jordanian Armed Forces which participated with a team of more than 60 runners.

Besides the top three male and female winners, special awards in the youngest and the oldest participants for finishing the race were also awarded last year.

Last year's winner of the race was Abdullah Mansour from the Jordanian Armed Forces who finished the 10-kilometre route in 31 minutes and 41 seconds while the fastest female runner, Amneh Odeh, finished the race in 43 minutes and 19 seconds. Oddly enough the youngest and the oldest participants finished the race in approximately the same time, just under 50 minutes.

Registration fee for the race is JD 3.

Tae Kwan Do finals to be held today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The final for selecting members of the national Tae Kwan Do team will be held Wednesday morning at the King Hussein Youth City Sports Palace. The selected team will represent Jordan at the First Arab Tae Kwan Do Championships to be held in Amman next July.

The number of finalists is 59 and their ages start at 15 for those holding the first degree red belts and holders of black belts, dan one to dan three.

Starting at 10:00 a.m., the finals will go on till 2:00 p.m. Those who reach the final stages of the various weight divisions will participate in the finals to be held at 3:00 p.m. on Friday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and the Tae Kwan Do Association President at the Sports Palace.

Talks constructive, Soviet sports chief says

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (R) — Soviet sports chief Marat Gramov emerged from a meeting with the head of the international Olympic movement Tuesday, saying he had found mutual understanding on Moscow's complaints about U.S. preparations for the Los Angeles Games.

Gramov, head of the Soviet National Olympic Committee, declined to say whether Moscow would send a team to the summer games.

"It is too early for a decision. These talks will go on until tonight so let's not run ahead of events," he told reporters after a 90-minute meeting with Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

"We had a good talk. It was constructive and we found mutual understanding," he added. The Soviet Union sought the meeting to voice a wide range of complaints about preparations for the Los Angeles Games, including charges that the U.S. was violating the Olympic Charter over visa requirements for Communist-bloc athletes.

Gramov was followed into IOC headquarters at Lausanne's lakeside Chateau de Vidy by Los Angeles Games President Peter Ueberroth for separate talks with Samaranch.

Keegan scores twice in Newcastle's 5-1 hammering of Carlisle United

LONDON (R) — Newcastle United, spearheaded by Kevin Keegan, moved closer to a place back in the English soccer first division by hammering Carlisle 5-1 at home Monday.

The victory consolidated Newcastle's hold on third place in Division Two and with closest rivals Manchester City losing 3-2 at home to Huddersfield, United seem certain to join Sheffield Wednesday and Chelsea in the rise to Division One next season.

Newcastle are seven points ahead of fourth-placed Manchester City and only the top three clubs can gain promotion. Both have four matches left.

The irony for Newcastle, however, is that Keegan, the former England international and European Player of the Year who scored twice Saturday, has insisted he will retire after this season.

In Division One, Ipswich improved their chances of avoiding the drop by beating East Anglian neighbours Norwich 2-0 to move fourth from the bottom above

Stoke City, who lost 2-1 at home to Queens Park Rangers.

Last-placed Wolverhampton, however, had their fate confirmed. Their 2-0 loss to F.A. Cup finalists Everton ensured they will play in Division Two next season.

Keegan, who can expect spirited attempts to persuade him to extend his career, opened Newcastle's scoring in the 12th minute and after Chris Waddle had made

it 2-0 he got his second and his 26th of the season eight minutes into the second half.

Peter Beardsley scored twice within four minutes before Russell Coughlin notched one for Carlisle 10 minutes from time.

Wolverhampton have been in the first for just one season and their return was sealed by a former teammate Monday.

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TURKISH FASHION FESTIVAL

at the San Rock Hotel

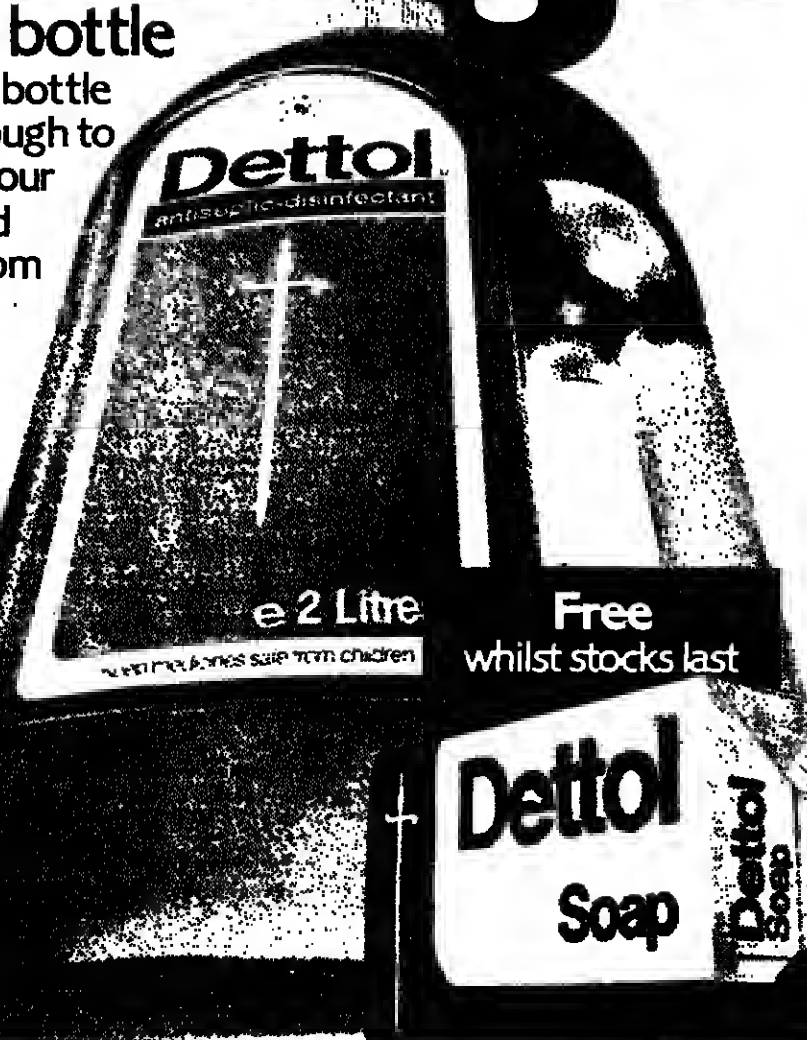
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(Colour)
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Performances: 3:30-6 - 8:30

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ZAHARAN

THE NUT
(Colour)
"Italian Film"

Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8

Cinema Tel: 30126
BASMAN

THE GREATEST
(Colour)
"Indian Film"

Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8

Cinema Tel: 22117
PALESTINE

1- FREEDOM TORCHES
2- THE RETURN OF THE BLACK DRAGON
(Colour) "Karek"

Performances: 12-3-7

Cinema Tel: 22198
RAGHADAN

MASHAAL
(Colour)
"Indian Film"

Performances: 12-3-5:30-8

France, U.S. to discuss EC agricultural reforms

WASHINGTON (R) — French Farm Minister Michel Rocard arrives in Washington Thursday for talks with senior U.S. officials on a recent West European agricultural reform package and long-standing farm trade differences with Washington.

The talks will follow last month's U.S. visit by French President Francois Mitterrand and demonstrate French efforts to play an active leadership role in European Community affairs during the current French presidency, officials said.

Mr. Rocard, chairman of the community farm ministers council, early this month helped to secure reforms aimed at cutting excessive farm spending in the 10-nation bloc by placing strict controls on milk production and imposing the first ever general cut in farm prices.

A French embassy spokesman said Mr. Rocard would begin meetings on Thursday with senior U.S. officials, including Agriculture Secretary John Block and trade representative Mr. Bill Brock, to explain the controversial farm package and discuss trade disputes on such products as wine and cereal substitutes.

He said Mr. Rocard would stress that the agreement, politically unpopular with many French farmers, marked a turning point in reforming the community's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

"We are not sure that the 1985 (U.S.) farm bill will go as far as the CAP reforms," the spokesman said.

U.S. officials said they planned to reiterate the Reagan administration's strong objections to part of the community package calling for talks to limit European

imports of American corn-gluten feed for livestock.

"It is not our responsibility to pay for the CAP reform," a U.S. official at the Department of Agriculture said.

He said that import restrictions might spread beyond corn-gluten feed and jeopardize the multi-billion dollar market for U.S. soybeans and products as a result of a proposed community vegetable oil consumption tax.

European wines, cognac and whisky represent candidates for possible U.S. retaliation in the dispute, he said.

The official said community limits on U.S. corn-gluten feed may provoke Congress to approve a bill restricting imported wines.

The French spokesman said that despite differences, Mr. Rocard's visit would come at a time of generally improved U.S.-community farm relations after tensions in the past two years nearly resulted in a trade war.

He said that on April 25 Mr. Rocard would present the prestige Legion of Honour award to Senator Charles Percy, an Illinois Republican, for his work as chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee.

Mr. Rocard will leave Washington on Friday, spending the weekend in Quebec and then holding talks with Canadian Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan on April 30 in Ottawa.

An aide to Mr. Whelan said they would discuss farm research and scientific exchange, access for Canadian seed potatoes in Italy and Greece, world food problems, international farm trade and milk supply management.

Mr. Rocard is scheduled to depart for Paris on May 1.

U.N. allocates \$2.7b to develop energy sources

NEW YORK (OPECNA) — The United Nations has allocated more than \$2.7 billion for the development of new and renewable energy sources, it was announced here Monday.

About 74.4 per cent of the money has been assigned for large-scale hydropower development and 17.7 per cent for fuelwood and geothermal projects.

The remainder covers planning, energy conservation, biomass and multi-purpose projects, solar, wind, oil-shale, ocean, animal power and peat energy development.

U.N. undersecretary general for international economic and social affairs Mr. Shuaib Yahya said the organization was involved in a number of activities to promote

the use of alternative energy sources.

These included energy assessment and planning, research development, transfer, adaptation and application of technologies, and training and information covering most new and renewable sources of energy contained in the Nairobi programme of action, adopted in 1981.

But he argued that much more needed to be done, including intensifying activities, particularly in the field of pre-investment.

In addition to the \$2.7 billion, \$1.3 billion has been allotted to bilateral and inter-government organizations, while national governments have pledged \$3.4 billion for the development of new and renewable energy sources.

China moves to link bonuses with results

PEKING (R) — China has decided to link pay bonuses more closely to company profits and is moving to wipe out indiscriminate incentives for workers, the China Daily reported Tuesday.

The English-language newspaper said a ceiling on bonus payments to workers would be scrapped, so that companies making high profits could pay out more to employees.

But employees in firms not making a profit will get little or no bonus money, according to a new government circular.

The paper said the existing ceiling on bonus payments was equal to about two-and-a-half months' wages.

"But at present most enterprises give bonuses to everyone. They have become a sort of fixed wage rise and have thus lost their function as incentives," the daily

stated in a front-page article.

China reintroduced incentive schemes around six years ago, however, bureaucracy and some leftist resistance have tended to reduce their effectiveness.

The circular, released last week, said that bonuses can be paid by firms that have fulfilled state production quotas, increased profits and handed over more taxes to the state.

But companies failing to meet quotas or whose profits and tax payments have declined will have to issue smaller bonuses or none at all, the paper added.

The catch is that higher taxes will be paid by firms paying out

higher bonuses, according to the circular.

Bonuses can be paid in various ways, including new wage schedules and special allowances.

The paper said that the new scheme would be adopted first in a few select firms, including those in mining, building and transport, and would then be extended to all industries.

Occident Petroleum, China to sign major pact

Meanwhile The Occidental Petroleum Company will sign a major coal mine development agreement with China on April 24 — the biggest commercial deal Peking has ever entered, Chairman Armand Hammer announced Monday in Los Angeles.

He told a press conference the programme to develop a coal mine

with China would be the largest venture between China and a foreign corporation or government.

The venture has taken about 2½ years to negotiate and is expected to cost about \$600 million.

The mine will be in China's Shanxi province, about 500 kilometres west of Peking, and is expected to produce up to 15 million tons of raw coal annually.

Proven reserves are estimated at 1.4 billion tons.

Mr. Hammer said the high-grade coal produced by the venture would be sold on the export market and the China export agency had already agreed to market the coal.

He said three banks were advising the company on financing for the project.

"We have the financing in place and expect to be able to go ahead," Mr. Hammer said.

Nigeria changes nairas in war against corruption

LAGOS (R) — The Nigerian military government has taken another step in its war on corruption by ordering a change in the nation's currency notes that is likely to leave many people holding bundles of worthless paper.

Brigadier Tunde Idiagbon, who ranks second in the new administration, said on television Monday night that individuals could change no more than 5,000 old naira (\$6,650) into new notes without having to explain how they came by the cash.

The government has also closed the land borders and instituted tough searches at air and sea ports until the end of the changeover on May 6.

This is to ensure that money smuggled abroad to be changed in foreign banks at lower rates than those set by the Nigerian central bank is not brought secretly back.

Diplomatic sources said Foreign Minister Ibrahim Gambari summoned the heads of missions Monday night and told them their usually inviolate diplomatic bags would be subject to searches for smuggled naira.

The junta has accused the civilian administration of former president Shehu Shagari, which it overthrew in a coup last December, of corruption which official sources say will eventually be "weighed in billions of dollars."

Wealthy Nigerians, who mistrust banks, often hold large amounts of cash at home and banking and diplomatic sources said many would not wish to explain where the money came from.

Banking sources said far greater amounts were held in Nigeria than outside, making it likely that people who had earned money legally but kept it at home would be hard hit.

They predicted a buying spree when shops reopened after Easter, with people putting money into goods while the old notes remained legal tender.

The junta has already given itself the power to freeze bank accounts in its search for wealth gained through corruption. The change of notes is aimed at neutralising cash.

Nearly 500 former politicians, officials and businessmen have been arrested and are due to be tried by military tribunals on corruption charges which could bring jail terms of at least 21 years and confiscation of property.

The military moves against large-scale corruption under the civilians are popular and diplomatic sources said the note-change would probably be welcomed once the expected chaos at the banks had died down.

It is believed that many people held large amounts of money at home during general elections last year and well informed sources say some politicians had millions of naira in cash to be spread among supporters to influence voting.

Brigadier Idiagbon said in January that searches of the houses of former politicians yielded huge amounts of cash including 3.4 million naira at the home of one newly elected state governor.

Japanese dockers strike

TOKYO (R) — Japanese dockers began an indefinite strike at 10 major ports and domestic airline pilots staged a 24-hour walkout Tuesday. Members of the 60,000-strong National Council of Harbour Workers are refusing to load containers at the 10 ports in support of demands for more compensation for dockers thrown out of work by containerisation, a union spokesman said. A spokesman for the Japan Harbour Transportation Association said there was a wide gap between the management and the union after negotiations last Friday. He said the management planned more talks on Thursday. The union says over 30,000 dockers have been thrown out of work by containerisation in the past six years.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market closed lower in quiet trading due to lack of interest after the long Easter weekend having opened weaker reflecting the lower trend on Wall Street and worries over the U.K. miners' dispute, dealers said. At 1500 Tuesday the F.T. 30 index was down five points at 875.0.

ICI fell 10p to 600 ahead of results. Glaxo at 80½ and Unilever at 89½ eased the same amount while Beecham fell 5p to 316.

Hong Kong shares fell in line with the home market. Government bonds firmed up to ½ point following sporadic small demand at Tuesday morning's lower levels, dealers said. Gold shares were mostly higher and North Americans were mixed.

Hong Kong shares closed lower reflecting the sharply lower close overnight on the Hong Kong stock market after the U.K. foreign secretary's comments last week that Britain will cede sovereignty over the colony in 1997, dealers said. Jardine Matheson fell 6p to 101, Swire Pacific 6½p to 167½ and Cheung Kong 4p to 86.

Banks were dull with Lloyds down 5p to 617 and Barclays off 3p to 474. Among mixed insurance Minster assets fell 8p to 139. Commercial Union fell 6p to 210 after its recent gain but Refuge added 4p to 440. Oils were slightly lower where changed with Shell down 3p to 635 and Burmah 2p off at 184.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One sterling	1.4140/50	U.S. dollars	
One U.S. dollar	1.2810/13	Canadian dollars	
	2.6767/77	West German marks	
	3.0195/0205	Dutch guilders	
	2.2148/58	Swiss francs	
	54.62/65	Belgian francs	
	8.2300/50	French francs	
	1654.10/1655.60	Italian lire	
	225.15/25	Japanese yen	
	7.9000/50	Swedish crowns	
	7.6550/6600	Norwegian crowns	
	9.8400/50	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	384.00/384.50	U.S. dollars	

British miners ignore strike

LONDON (R) — Miners in Britain's second largest coalfield Tuesday defied calls from local and national union leaders to strike and instead reported for work after the Easter holiday. Men at seven of the Nottinghamshire pits, booed, and jeered by militant pickets outside the colliery entrances, told reporters they would not stop work until told to do so after a national ballot of the 180,000-strong union. The 18 remaining pits in the Nottinghamshire field, which employs 34,000 miners, are due to reopen Thursday. The National Union of Mineworkers is fighting a plan by the state-run National Coal Board to close 20 uneconomic pits and shed 20,000 jobs over the next 12 months.

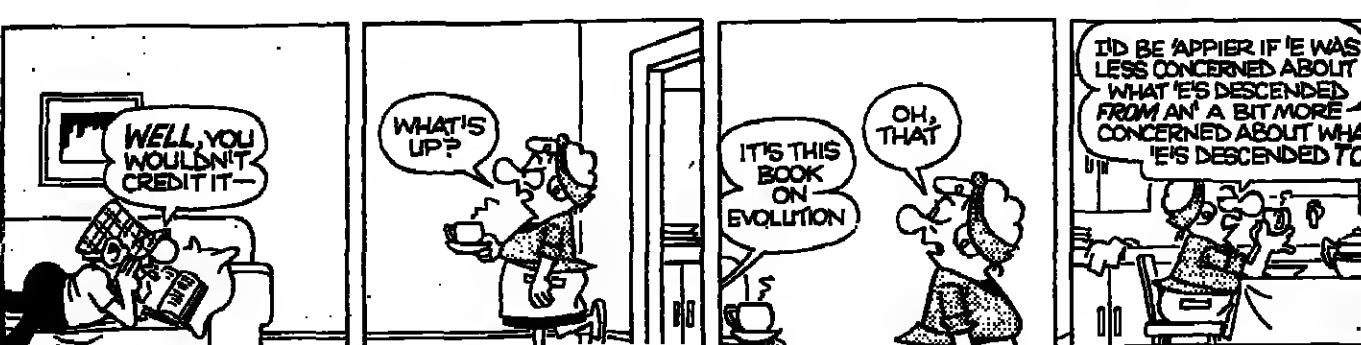
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



IDB aids member states

JEDDAH (R) — The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) said Tuesday its board approved trade financing operations and development projects for member countries totalling \$175 million.

Among the trade financing operations it listed \$37 million for Libya for imports of raw materials and industrial goods, \$26 million for Pakistan for imports of palm oil from a member country, \$20 million for Iraq for imports of Malaysian palm oil, \$20 million for Morocco for imports of crude oil from Saudi Arabia, \$20 million for North Yemen for imports of refined petroleum products from a member country and \$10 million for Sierra Leone for imports of crude oil from Saudi Arabia. The project financings included \$16.5 million for equipment for a power station in Oman and \$9 million for machinery and equipment for a bearings plant in Turkey, the bank said in a statement.

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 1984

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The early part of the day finds you with a pretty clear idea of what you want to do and how you want to do it. This is followed by a period of delays and obstacles in your path.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Be concerned with the personal in the morning; then get a new plan in motion which can be tested out by evening.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Early go after what you most desire, since later there are apt to be delays. Be more independent.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Begin the day properly by getting your work done efficiently and persevere throughout the day. Take no risks with your reputation.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You are inspired as you get up and should put your ideas in motion without delay. Keep plugging away at your aims.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Find a better way of handling business matters before you handle routines of general nature.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Find the right way to get an associate to go along with some fine practical plan of action. Maintain your position of power.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get your surroundings improved so that you can operate more easily in them. Be more cooperative with fellow workers.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Make appointments for entertainment early. Put your finest talents to work during the daytime and get much accomplished.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Get good ideas for improving your home during the daytime and be happier there in the future. Be smart.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Handle correspondence and other paper work early. Visit only casual acquaintances in the evening.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Monetary matters require more attention than ever today even though you may be pressured. Concentrate on the practical.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You understand how to gain benefits that are important to you now. Set up an appointment to see a good friend.

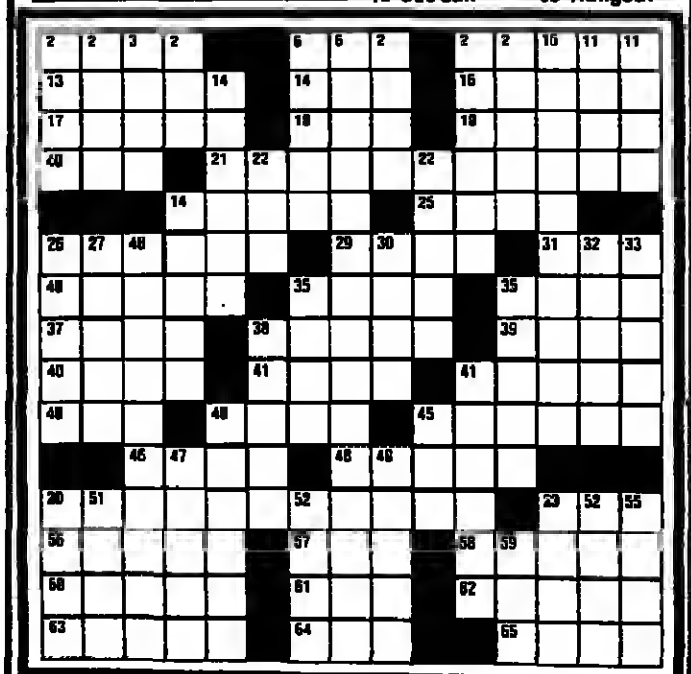
IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be one who will understand imaginative ideas and will be capable of bringing them down to a workable level. The early part of life will be quite easy but upon reaching adulthood their progeny could become confused.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

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THE Daily Crossword by Louis Sabin

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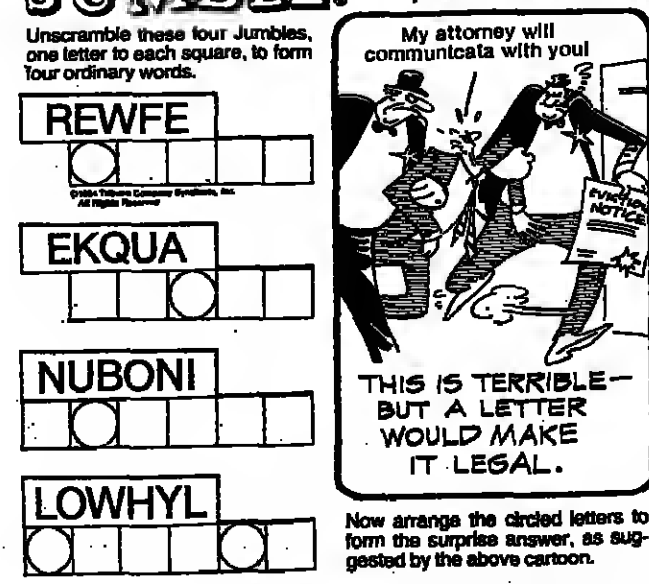
THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME



Print answer here: (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: OWING PRIZE COSTLY MUSEUM
Answer: "What do you eave here?" — "SOUP TO NUTS"

U.S. seeks action against Soviet 'expansionist' policy

HONOLULU (R) — President Reagan Tuesday called on China and other Asian countries to join the United States in economic and other policies opposing "expansionist aggression" in the Pacific region.

"That's what our trip to China is all about," he said in a statement prepared for his departure for Guam, where he will make an overnight stop before flying to Peking on Thursday.

U.S. officials said Mr. Reagan had "expansionist aggression" by the Soviet Union in mind, a matter of concern to both China and the United States, but was not calling for a military alliance with Peking.

Mr. Reagan said the United States must work with its friends to keep the Pacific peaceful and to open for commerce, not conflict. "Together, we can go forward in a mighty enterprise to build dynamic growth economies, and make the world safer by working for peace and jointly opposing expansionist aggression," he said.

Mr. Reagan then went on to say: "That's what our trip to China is all about."

Both China and the United States have expressed worry over

Soviet actions, including its military intervention in Afghanistan.

But China has rejected the idea of military ties with the United States and is following an independent foreign policy as it seeks to reduce tensions over ideological and border disputes with Moscow and the heavy deployment of Soviet troops and SS-20 missiles in Asia.

Mr. Reagan's talks in Peking were aimed at improving U.S.-China relations, expanding U.S. markets, and discussing what he and Chinese leaders view as Moscow's threats to stability.

Officials said Monday it was possible that during Mr. Reagan's visit China and the United States would remove obstacles to a nuclear co-operation agreement.

Such an accord would mean the sale of billions of dollars in nuclear reactors by American companies and boost Mr. Reagan's image in his bid for re-election this year.

But Reagan in his statement indirectly referred to problems in U.S.-China trade relations and Peking's strong objections to U.S. arms sales to Taiwan.

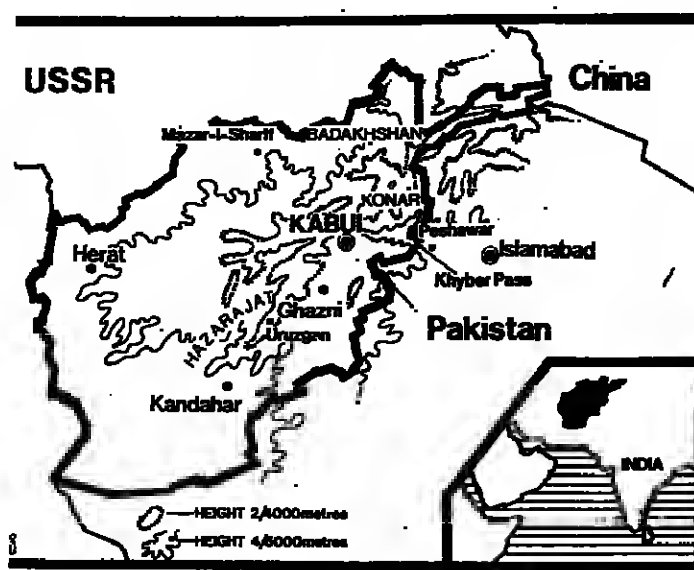
"We journey to China in a spirit of peace and friendship, realistic about our differences but desiring to build upon our common interests," he said.

"The American people have always held the achievements of Chinese civilisation in the highest esteem and we have the warmest feelings of friendship for the Chinese people."

He said he was going to China "to convey this respect and friendship directly to the Chinese people, to hear their hopes and concerns, and to express our readiness to co-operate with China in its ambitious efforts to modernise its economy."

"U.S.-China relations are good and I believe they can and will get better..."

"A stable and enduring U.S.-China relationship provides a vital contribution to the peace and well-being of all the peoples of East Asia and an important building block in the structure of world peace."



Soviets launch new offensive in Afghanistan

NEW DELHI (AP) — Soviet forces have launched a new offensive against a strategic rebel stronghold in Afghanistan that has resisted six previous assaults. Western diplomats said Tuesday.

Soviet aircraft began high-altitude bombing of the Panjshir Valley last Saturday, while Soviet troops and equipment are massed in the area, according to the diplomatic report.

"Panjshir 7 has begun," said a diplomat who asked not to be identified by name or nationality under press briefing rules.

The Panjshir is a 100 kilometre long valley north of Kabul which has served as a symbol of resistance to the Soviet-backed Afghan regime.

A year-long truce between the Soviets and Panjshir rebel leader Ahmad Shah Massoud expired in January, and a fresh offensive was anticipated.

Six-large scale Soviet campaigns during the past three years have failed to wrest control of the valley, which has been used by Massoud as a staging base for guerrilla ambushes in other regions.

The diplomatic report said the

new attack was triggered by the destruction by Massoud's forces of a major bridge on the highway connecting Kabul and the Soviet Union.

On the night of April 16, the Muslim rebels blew up 20 metres of the concrete Mattock Bridge over the Ghorband River south of the Salang Pass, the report said.

The Soviets reportedly tried to build a pontoon bridge, but the river, swollen by the spring melt, washed it away.

The guerrillas also reportedly blew up three other bridges on both sides of the Salang Pass in mid-April and mined the highway between the bridge and the pass, the diplomats said.

Soviet troops and equipment began massing near the valley about two weeks ago. There are now "thousands" of soldiers and more than 500 tanks and armoured personnel carriers in the area, the report said.

The Soviets are digging artillery emplacements to bombard the valley, the report quoted a source as saying. Few Afghan troops appear to be involved in the offensive because of their "increasing unreliability," the report said.

Andreotti meets Chernenko

MOSCOW (R) — Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti Tuesday met Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko for talks in the Kremlin, the Soviet TASS News Agency reported.

It gave no more details, but Italian sources said the meeting was due to centre on East-West relations and the chances of a renewed dialogue on such issues as nuclear missiles.

Mr. Andreotti is the first member of a Western government to hold talks with Mr. Chernenko since he became Communist Party leader last February.

Western diplomats had been looking for signs of a softening in the Soviet refusal to return to talks on reducing nuclear weapons, but Mr. Andreotti's meetings with Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko Monday showed the Kremlin was standing firm.

Mr. Gromyko said he shared Mr. Andreotti's view that more frequent bilateral contacts could create more understanding and help to improve the East-West climate.

But he was adamant that Moscow would not return to nuclear weapons negotiations now, that NATO had started deploying new U.S. cruise and Pershing mis-



Giulio Andreotti

siles in Western Europe.

Western diplomats said they expected Mr. Chernenko, 72, to give a cordial welcome to Mr. Andreotti but predicted he would deliver exactly the same message.

Western diplomats said Mr. Gromyko's comments during the talks and in a luncheon speech had dashed any hopes that the Kremlin might soften its tough stand during Mr. Andreotti's visit.

The Soviet foreign minister dismissed Western arguments for deploying the U.S. weapons and said they were installed solely because Washington was seeking nuclear supremacy and a first-strike capability.

He also lectured Mr. Andreotti on the damage Italy's acceptance of the missiles had done, saying it had "thrown a shadow" over bilateral ties and hindered the development of trade links.

Portuguese president approves abortion bill

LISBON (R) — Portuguese President Antonio Ramalho Eanes announced Monday night he would approve a law liberalising abortion in this largely Roman Catholic country.

Mr. Eanes made his announcement on television, ending months of controversy and speculation as to whether he would sign it into law or exercise his right of veto. The deadline for the decision was Tuesday.

Parliament passed the bill in January and it was declared constitutional by an independent tribunal shortly afterwards. But the president hesitated over pro-

mulgating it, saying many sections of the country opposed liberalisation.

Last week he asked Portugal's political parties to decide whether to hold the country's first referendum to decide the issue. The majority rejected such a move.

Mr. Eanes must approve all laws in this semi-presidential system to avoid their returning to parliament for a second vote.

The abortion law, introduced by the ruling Socialist Party, does not legalise the operation but offers no punishment in specific cases such as rape, foetal deformity or danger to the mother's health.

Brazil closes universities, imposes press censorship

BRASILIA (R) — Brazilian authorities closed the capital's two universities Tuesday after students demonstrated Monday night in support of direct elections for President Joao Figueiredo's successor.

Witnesses said police used teargas to disperse small groups of students protesting against emergency measures ahead of a key debate Wednesday on an opposition amendment seeking to dissolve the electoral college which chooses presidents.

But strict military censorship imposed under presidential emergency measures will prevent live coverage of the debate reaching Brazil's 131 million people.

General Newton Cruz, the military commander of Brasilia and 10 neighbouring towns covered by the emergency, ruled that all radio and television coverage relating to constitutional amendments and emergency measures must be submitted for censorship.

Col. Antonio Fernandes Neiva, the national director of communications, said there would be no restrictions on foreign coverage of the debate.

Security has been stepped up in preparation for the debate with roadblocks on all routes to the capital and others within the city itself. Police are checking identity documents of all passengers arriving by air.

General Cruz said the controls were aimed at stopping those whose sole object in coming to the capital was to intimidate parliamentarians and prejudice the free exercise of legislative power.

Addressing a military parade Monday the general warned troops to ignore those who sought to suggest there was dissension within the ranks of the armed forces.

Members of the ruling Social Democrat Party (PDS) who intend to vote with the opposition expressed confidence that the amendment would pass in the Lower House of Deputies if not in the Senate.

Mr. Figueiredo has warned party defectors that direct elections could bring a leftist president to power and lead to conditions similar to those in 1964 when the military toppled the civilian government.

400,000 take part in anti-nuclear protest

BONN (R) — Hundreds of thousands of people staged demonstrations against nuclear missiles in West Germany over Easter in the first show of strength by the country's "peace movement" since mass protests last October.

The protests drew 400,000 people in actions across the country Monday, bringing the total turnout over five days to over 600,000. Police figures were often less than half of those claimed by

the organisers.

The protesters were out in large numbers for the first time since demonstrations last October failed to stop the centre-right government of Chancellor Helmut Kohl from approving deployment of U.S. cruise and Pershing-2 missiles.

The first Pershings arrived in West Germany in December last year, beginning a five-year deployment programme.

The weekend was generally

peaceful as whole families turned out. Protesters carried balloons, banners and flags.

No incidents were reported Monday but a guard fired warning shots at demonstrators who broke through the wire at a U.S. Pershing base at Muelingen, south Germany, on Saturday.

Police had turned water cannon laced with teargas on protesters outside a U.S. army barracks in Bremen on Friday.

Yugoslavia freed detained dissident, lawyer says

BELGRADE (R) — Yugoslav human rights lawyer Srdjan Popovic, who has represented veteran dissident Milovan Djilas, was freed Tuesday after 12 hours in police custody, reliable sources at his practice said Tuesday.

Mr. Popovic, who has figured prominently in defending members of Yugoslavia's dissident community in recent years, was detained Monday night after police searches at his apartment and his offices in central Belgrade.

His detention was clearly part of a government crackdown on Yugoslav dissidents which began last Friday when Mr. Djilas and 27 intellectuals were seized at a pri-

vate Belgrade apartment.

Mr. Djilas, 72, was released with a few hours after being held for about 18 hours.

Mr. Popovic was not immediately available for comment after his release, but his practice said he had been questioned throughout the night by State Security Police.

Sources at his practice said nine of those seized on Friday night were still being held by police and there were strong chances now that they might be charged.

Friday's raid took place as Mr. Djilas was giving an informal lecture on Yugoslavia's nationalities question.

Director to stand trial for actor's death

LOS ANGELES (R) — Film Director John Landis and two colleagues were ordered Monday to stand trial for the involuntary manslaughter of actor Vic Morrow and two children while shooting a war scene for the film "Twilight Zone."

If convicted, Landis and his colleagues, pilot Dorsey Wingo and the chief of a film special effects crew, Paul Stewart, could each be sentenced to six years imprisonment.

The ruling by municipal court Judge Brian Crahan was made amid criticism from members of the film industry that an increasing public demand for more spectacular stunts was jeopardising the lives of film crews.

Morrow, 53, and the children,

Renee Chen, six, and Myca Dinh Lee, seven, were killed when a helicopter crashed on them during the shooting of a Vietnam war scene in July 1982.

Morrow was running with a child under each arm across a river bed on the outskirts of Los Angeles while fireballs exploded around them and the helicopter hovered overhead.

The prosecution alleged during the preliminary hearing that debris hurtled into the air by a special-effects explosion struck the helicopter, piloted by Wingo, causing the crash.

Judge Crahan said of the three accused: "each one... created an unreasonable exposure of harm to those killed in the crash."

He dismissed involuntary manslaughter charges against two other members of the film crew.

Landis, considered one of Hollywood's fastest-rising directors, has made a series of films, including Animal House and Trading Places.

The Twilight Zone incident has become the most publicised in a series of film and television stunts that have taken their toll in recent years.

Skydiver Joseph Svec was killed when his parachute failed to open during the filming of the Right Stuff last year.

An actress and stuntwoman, Heidi Von Beltz, has been confined to a wheelchair since she was injured while doubling for Farrah Fawcett in The Cannonball Run.

U.S. scientists detect cause of AIDS

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. medical researchers believe they have discovered the probable cause of AIDS and say a vaccine to combat the disease which has struck down large numbers of homosexuals might be developed within two years.

But the announcement Monday by the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, Margaret Heckler, failed to make clear whether credit for the breakthrough lay with Washington's National Institutes of Health (NIH) or the French Pasteur Institute, which has made a similar discovery.

The announcement was greeted with cautious optimism by a representative of San Francisco's large homosexual community.

Tom Waddell, a homosexual activist, welcomed the news but said: "Certainly a lot of us will die between now and when the vaccine is discovered."

AIDS, short for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, destroys its victims' immunity and leaves them open to a series of ravaging diseases.

Ms. Heckler told a news conference: "Today's discovery represents the triumph of science

over a dreaded disease... Today we add another miracle to the long honour roll in American medicine and science."

She said a blood test for AIDS could be found within six months which would prevent tainted blood being used in transfusions.

Scientists say AIDS is apparently carried in human body fluids, including blood, and that homosexuals are especially susceptible through sexual contact.

Of at least 4,000 Americans who have contracted the disease since it was identified in 1981, more than 1,700 have died.

Western Europe seeks dialogue despite U.S.-Soviet freeze

By Sidney Weiland

LONDON — With U.S.-Soviet relations deeply frozen, Western European foreign ministers are starting a trek to Moscow in hopes of opening up a broader dialogue.

Britain, West Germany and Italy have scheduled talks over the next three months in a probe of Soviet intentions which they hope may help nuclear talks back into negotiations.

The contacts will restore high-level communication between the Kremlin and the three Western countries which last year started to deploy controversial U.S. medium-range missiles.

Moscow broke off negotiations on both medium-range and strategic missiles soon after the first American cruise and Pershing-2 weapons reached Western Europe in November.

While European officials say they expect no quick fixes on any major East-West issues, they believe the absence of meaning U.S.-Soviet talks makes it even more necessary for other NATO partners to go on talking with Moscow.

This is accepted by Reagan administration officials, although with some hesitation. "We're not afraid of the Europeans signing separate deals," a London-based

U.S. diplomat says. "It could even do some good."

American officials say they are confident the Europeans will share whatever comes out of the Moscow talks, and that conceivably some light will be shed on Soviet thinking.

This could be important at a time when Western leaders are puzzling over the likely thrust of Kremlin policy under newly-elected President Konstantin Chernenko.

Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti is in Moscow and will be followed by West Germany's Hans-Dietrich Genscher in May and Britain's Sir Geoffrey Howe in July. Other Western officials are expected to join the Moscow safari later.

Italy and Britain have deployed 16 U.S. cruise caches, and West Germany nine Pershing missiles, the first of a projected 572 nuclear weapons capable for the first time of hitting Soviet military command centres from European bases. Mr. Chernenko and other Soviet leaders have said the Soviet Union will return to nuclear arms negotiations only if the West removes the existing weapons and halts plans to deploy others.

U.S. and allied government analysts generally agree that Moscow is unlikely to shift on missiles this

year and will probably wait to see if President Reagan is re-elected next November.

They also believe Moscow has boxed itself in on the missile issue by its refusal to talk until the West yields.

European diplomats say quiet talking could perhaps help get Soviet leaders "off the hook" by negotiating them back to the negotiating table without undue loss of face.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Discreet diplomacy may also reveal other arms control openings that may be worth exploring, some say.

New Western proposals were submitted at two related arms conferences this week. In Geneva, U.S. Vice President George Bush tabled plans to outlaw chemical weapons and in Vienna NATO offered a compromise package in talks on troop reductions.

"The time is ripe for new efforts towards broad-based, long-term agreement between East and West on a constructive and stable relationship between equals," Foreign Minister Genscher said last month.

West Germany was the first country to end a freeze on high-level contacts imposed by the NATO alliance when Soviet tro-

U.S.-Soviet freeze

ops intervened in Afghanistan in 1979. Other NATO members shunned Moscow until at least late 1982.

Now, even Britain's hardline Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has joined the chorus in favour of dialogue. French President Francois Mitterrand, who for a long time refused to go to Moscow, plans a visit later this year.

Despite a total blockade on nuclear arms, the United States and Moscow have quietly resumed talks on consular and cultural ties that were halted because of Afghanistan.

U.S. officials refuse to say whether Washington and Moscow are talking equally quietly on bigger issues, and the Kremlin has vigorously denied that any secret backstage contacts are under way on arms control problems.

Oleg Troyanovsky, Soviet ambassador to the United Nations and a veteran in bilateral relations, calls the freeze "one of the darkest periods in the history of Soviet-American relations."

The West European opening to Moscow flows from a NATO decision to offer the Soviet bloc a serious new dialogue looking towards a "balanced and constructive relationship."

Bonn has defined a set of principles it says should be endorsed by both sides as a starting point, including a mutual recognition of "legitimate security interests."

Britain's Lord Carrington, who takes over as NATO secretary-general in June, is likely to continue pushing in this direction. He has urged the West to "talk frankly and insistently to the Russians at every level."

European analysts think the coming probe is needed because there seems no other way to turn in East-West relations until after the American presidential election.

But they also think the Kremlin, under its third leader in 1-1/2 years, is in a state of diplomatic inertia, with the politburo's main emphasis fixed on domestic rather than foreign policy, and that this may continue until Mr. Chernenko, 72, goes.

"They may just decide they have nothing to lose. They may decide to sit it out. There's no guarantee they will budge even after the U.S. election," a well-placed NATO official said.

COLUMN

6 die in churchyard plane crash

CORNELIA, Georgia (R) — All six people aboard a twin-engine private plane, including the pilot, were killed Monday when it crashed into a fog-shrouded churchyard. Five of the victims were employees of a construction company based in Norwalk, Ohio, and were flying to a highway construction site in north Georgia, a company spokesman said. The Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation and Safety Board are investigating.

Jagger accepts copyright settlement

NEW YORK (R) — Mick Jagger and the Rolling Stones agreed Monday to drop a copyright civil law suit against their former financial adviser in return for prompt payment of royalties due to them, according to a court-approved settlement. Allen Klein, who was the pop group's financial adviser and owns 30 per cent of their royalties up to August 1970, agreed to pay the Stones money due them twice a year. A key issue of whether Klein owns the pre-August 1970 right to video cassettes, discs and films was left unresolved and "reserved for future determination." Experts in the music business have estimated that the case involved millions of dollars but no accurate figures have been made available.

Kreisky undergoes kidney transplant

HANOVER, West Germany (R) — Former Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky underwent a kidney transplant on Easter Sunday, a hospital spokesman said Monday night. The 73-year-old Dr. Kreisky, who had been on a dialysis machine, was reported in good condition. He was chancellor until 1983 when his Socialist Party lost its absolute majority.

5 Britons charged with forgery

LONDON (AP) — Five men in cities throughout Britain were charged Monday with handling forged 50-pound notes, believed to be part of a flood of phony bills worth millions circulated over the Easter holiday weekend. Scotland Yard, London's police headquarters, warned stores to be alert for crooks on spending spree. Bookmaking authorities at Kempton Park horse racing track west of London stopped accepting 50-pound bills. Seven men, including two Londoners arraigned Saturday, have now been charged under Britain's Forgery and Counterfeiting Act. Twenty-two men have been arrested, police said. Detective Inspector Colin Edkins said in the south England port of Southampton, where the first forged notes are thought to have been spent, that police believe the forgers are printing money at a hideout in London's East End.

W. German army to recruit women

HAMBURG (AP) — A senior Defence Ministry official was quoted Monday as saying that 1,000 to 1,500 women will be recruited for the West German Armed Forces for the first time next year. Peter-Kurt Wuerzbach, the No. 2 man in the Bonn Defence Ministry, was quoted by the mass-circulation Bild Zeitung of Hamburg as saying the West German Armed Forces hopes eventually to put 15,000 women into uniform. Mr. Wuerzbach, a member of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democratic Union, emphasised that women soldiers would not serve in combat units, which is forbidden by the West German constitution. Instead, he was quoted as saying, women would serve in units such as communications or supply.

Former Argentine vice-president dies

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Former Vice-President Vicente Solano Lima, leader of the popular Conservative Party and an ally of the Labour-based Peronist Movement, died of a heart attack Monday at the age of 82, his family reported. Mr. Solano Lima served as vice-president from May to July 1973 in the administration headed by Peronist Hector Campora.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AQJ652 ♠AK10 ♠952 ♠7
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♥ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KJ5 ♠J3 ♠Q9652 ♠Q106
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South
1 ♥ Dble ?
What action do you take?

Q6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q83 ♠K87542 ♠83 ♠J7
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♥ Dble ?
What action do you take?

Q1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠K1095 ♠7 ♠J652 ♠QJ98
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South
1 ♠ Dble ?
What do you bid now?

Q2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠95 ♠AK93 ♠QKJ4 ♠KQ6
Partner opens the bidding with four spades. What action do you take?

Q3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠QJ7 ♠KQ8 ♠AQJ6 ♠K98
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 NT Pass Pass 2 ♠
Pass Pass 2 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?